





THE  
PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE  
SURTEES SOCIETY

VOL. CLVI

*Made and Printed in Great Britain  
by Northumberland Press Limited  
Gateshead on Tyne*

THE  
PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE  
SURTEES SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR  
M.DCCC.XXXIV



VOL. CLVI  
FOR THE YEAR M.CM.XLI

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S.C. 722

THE  
AUTOBIOGRAPHIES  
AND LETTERS  
OF  
THOMAS COMBER

SOMETIME PRECENTOR OF YORK  
AND DEAN OF DURHAM

EDITED BY  
C. E. WHITING

VOL. I

PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY BY  
ANDREWS & CO., SADLER STREET, DURHAM  
BERNARD QUARITCH, 11 GRAFTON STREET  
NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W.

1946



## P R E F A C E

THE delay in the appearance of this and the accompanying volume must largely be put down to the Second Great War. The printers have suffered from lack of staff. Difficulties in travelling and multifarious occupations have been the real hindrance. An attempt is here made to gather together all the extant remains of the Dean apart from his books. Many of his papers were destroyed by a member of the family a generation or two ago. Among them were, the Rev. E. Philip Comber has always understood, the papers relating to the restoration of the Dean's house at Durham, though he cannot vouch for the truth of this. The majority of the letters exist in the form of copies made under the direction of Canon James Raine. Most of these are not in Mr. Raine's handwriting, and some almost certain inaccuracies are to be found, and the originals have all disappeared. In the few cases where they can be checked the letters given in the Memoirs written by Comber's great-grandson are equally inaccurate; at times he appears to give the general meaning rather than the exact words.

I have especially to thank the Rev. E. Philip Comber and Mr. R. H. J. Comber; the Dean and Chapter of Durham; the Rev. Chancellor Harrison of York; and the Rev. F. W. Gill, Vicar of Stonegrave, who all lent me the Comber volumes in their possession. To Professor A. Hamilton Thompson, who has kindly read all the proofs, I am most grateful.



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## INTRODUCTION

THE following are the manuscript materials for Thomas Comber's life :

- (1) A small volume, bound in leather, containing the *History of My Own Life*, 79 pp. This is in two different hands, and the latter part, not in Comber's handwriting, has mistakes in the dates in the margins. The rest of the pages are blank, except a few at the end, on which are written, "The Distinction of Ages by Solon into Divisions by Seven Years," and *A Prayer said to be made by Edward Thompson, esquire, in his Last Sickness, who died*. In the Cathedral Library, Durham.
- (2) A small volume of *Sermons*, bound in leather, containing 179 sermons, dated from 1677 to the end of 1684. These are sermon notes, the notes of each discourse taking as a rule two sides of one page. At the end of the book, upside-down, are five sermons written on alternate pages. In the Cathedral Library, Durham.
- (3) A small volume of *Sermons*, bound in leather, some in note form, some in full, some with small papers of additions or alterations for a second reading. Comber wrote them on alternate pages, then turned the book upside-down and filled the blank pages. They seem to begin (though some are not dated) from 1st January, 1688, and many of them appear to belong to the period while he was dean. In the Cathedral Library, Durham.
- (4) Five letters in the Hunter MSS., vols. viii and xxxvi. In the Cathedral Library, Durham.
- (5) Three MS. volumes, written partly by Canon James Raine and more extensively by an amanuensis, containing copies of letters and other documents. R.32 contains 65 letters, R.33 has 69 and R.34 has 31. The volumes include a number of duplicates of some of the letters. These were copied by Canon James Raine. The third volume also contains :

*Notes about his Money Matters.*

*Memoirs out of my Minutes.*

*Semita Brevis, non iterum conculcanda; sive Brevis Narratio  
Vitæ Meæ.*

*In perpetuum Testimonium Divinæ Benevolentiæ.*

*The History of my own Life.*

*His Will* (written by a third hand).

In the Cathedral Library, Durham.

(6) A small leather-bound volume kept in Stonegrave Church. On the fly-leaf is an inscription, "Presented to Stonegrave church by the Rev. E. P. Comber, Vicar of Wrenbury, Cheshire, Gt. gt. gt. gt. grandson of Thomas Comber, Dean of Durham, 6th July 1936." The first 42 pp. and the last 60 pp. are filled with theological notes and extracts from theological writers. The middle portion, prefaced by an anagram on his name, contains, "*In Perpetuum Testimonium Divinæ Benevolentiæ*, or to give it its shorter title, *Theatrum Divinæ Benevolentiæ*. It also contains *The History of my own Life, collected An: Dom: 1695 and 1696*. There are a few differences between this copy and that in no. 1 above, chiefly slight variations in the order of words and in the spelling. The actual story runs word for word the same.

(7) A small leather-bound volume in the possession of the Rev. E. Philip Comber, labelled *Various Curious MSS. of Dean Comber*. This contains :

Epitome of *Dr. More's Immortality of the Soul*.

Epitome Libri *De Generatione Animalium a D<sup>r</sup>e Harveio conscripti*.

Epitome *Exercitationum D<sup>r</sup>e Charlton De Œconomia Animalis*.

Epitome of *Lux Orientalis*.

Epitome *Logicæ Gassendi*.

Descartes *De Passionibus*.

E. Copernico Redivivo a Danieli Lipstorsio conscripto  
excerpta.

Predestinationis Examen per Ja: Armin. in Declarat: Sentent:  
sua.

Epitome præcipuorum Capitum libri vocati : *Missa mortua et  
Sepulta* per M<sup>r</sup> De Rodon.

*De lxxii Versione.*

*Testimonium Patrum de Canone S. Scripturæ ut ab Ecclesiis nostris vulgo traditur ex Rev<sup>mi</sup> Joh: Cosen Scholastica Historia.*

Thirty pages of anatomical drawings and explanations.

Notes on Hebrew roots.

Drawings of ancient coins (2 pp.).

*Semita Brevis*, as above, no. 5.

- (8) A leather-bound volume in the possession of the Rev. E. P. Comber containing sermons composed after he was Dean of Durham. They were preached in the cathedral and other Durham churches, St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Nicholas, and St. Margaret's. One was preached at St. Paul's Cathedral and one or two in York. About a dozen are written out in full; the rest, fifty in number, are in the form of notes. In a few cases alterations or additions are inserted on slips.
- (9) A leather-bound volume, in the possession of the Rev. E. Philip Comber. It appears to belong principally to the dean's college days, though there is an interesting list of the lands of the farms of Stonegrave. The volume contains classical exercises, notes of his studies in Latin, Greek, astronomy, philosophy and so forth. There are also a few accounts (1663-65), a collection of recipes for various complaints, such as cough, scurvy, toothache and others, and a couple of lists of his books and what he paid for them.
- (10) The original MSS. of the *Dialogue between a Popish Priest and a Protestant*, of *The Examiner briefly Examined*, of the *Memories out of my Minutes*, the *Notes about his Money Matters* and the letter from Granville to Comber 25th Sept. 1683 are in the possession of the Rev. E. Philip Comber.
- (11) A volume of Sermons dated from 1673 to 1677. There are 189 sermons, the notes of each taking one page. Upside-down on the opposite pages are *An Epitome of my Exposition on the Ten Commandments*, *An Exposition of the Lord's Prayer*, and explanations of various passages of Scripture. The volume is in the possession of Mr. R. H. J. Comber, who has also a letter from the Marquess of Caermarthen to Comber.
- (12) Letters from Comber to Hickes 29th Nov. 1698; Comber to the

Archbishop of Canterbury 6th July 1681; William Cave to Comber, 14th June 1681 are in the possession of the present writer.

(13) Eighteen letters among the Tanner MSS. in the Bodleian Library, scattered over various volumes.

(14) The British Museum Library contains a MS. "Some Account of Thomas Comber, written by Himself." Add. MSS. 4221 and two letters by Thomas Comber to Timothy Manlove, dated 7th March 1691 and 9th March 1692. Add. MSS. 4275. Owing to the war these MSS. have not been available.

(15) "*Gallen. 1674, A New Almanack for the said Year. By Thomas Gallen, Mathematician. London. Printed for E. F. from the Company of Stationers.*" This copy is interleaved and contains notes in Comber's hand, including a series of notes for every day in the year written in a code of Comber's own in much abbreviated Latin and Greek with occasional English words. In the Cathedral Library, York.

(16) A History of the Comber family compiled from the notes by the late John Comber of Guildford. In typescript and in the possession of Mr. R. H. J. Comber.

(17) A MS. History of the Comber family. The second volume deals with the Combers of Balcombe, Wotton, Allington and East Newton. In the possession of the Rev. E. Philip Comber.

(18) There is a printed life of Comber. *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Thomas Comber, sometime Dean of Durham.* Compiled from the original MSS., by his great-grandson, Thomas Comber, A.B., late of Jesus College, Cambridge. London, 1799. It was dedicated to the then Countess of Ormond and Ossory, who was descended from the Lord Deputy Wandeford, whose granddaughter Comber married.

(19) In the library of Sidney Sussex College there is a New Testament interleaved and full of notes by Comber, and containing the inscription, "T. Comber, A.M. in 1669." It was presented to the library by the reverend Dr. Comber, Rector of Buckworth. Hants.

THOMAS COMBER left behind him much valuable information about himself and his family. Besides several brief autobiographies he

drew up a full pedigree of his wife. John Charles Brooke, Somerset Herald, whose grandmother was a daughter of the dean, put on record at the College of Arms a full pedigree of the Comber family. Comber himself said: "As to my family, I can demonstrate my ancestors to have been gentlemen bearing arms, of many descents, and I am allied to some of the best families in Sussex, my near relation, Dr. Comber, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, losing £1,000 for his loyalty to the late King: and it is well known that there is a gentleman of my name who hath been high sheriff of Sussex and is able to purchase all the estates the Danbys have left in England, to whom I am, by his own confession, so nearly allied that I am in a fair possibility to be his heir."<sup>1</sup> The person referred to was John Comber of Donnington, high sheriff of Sussex and Southampton in 1660. Thomas Comber claimed to be descended from a De Combre who came over with the Conqueror and received the manor of Barcombe "for killing the Saxon or Danish lord of it." The *Memoirs* call this ancestor Ricardus de Combre. Now there were Combers and "atte Combers" in the neighbourhood for centuries, but no direct connexion can be traced between the Combers of Barcombe, Shermanbury and Allington with this Ricardus. The first reference to an undoubted ancestor is in the record of a sale, dated 9th July 1524, when "John Rivers, otherwise called Comber of Balcombe, sold to John Rivers, otherwise called Comber of Lindfield," his son, a piece of land called "le Cowarstrete" in Ardingly. From John Rivers, *alias* Comber of Barcombe (as it is spelt to-day) descended James Comber of Allington, the father of Dean Comber. John Comber of Barcombe had an elder brother William, who purchased the manor of Shermanbury in 1542. To his son John, in 1571, was made the grant of arms ever afterwards borne by the Comber family: *or a fesse dancettée gules between three estoiles sable.* The crest was a lynx's head couped *sable* charged with three bezants. The motto was *Honor virtutis præmium*, but Thomas Comber changed it to *Sapiens dominabitur astris*, and his great-grandson connects the alteration with Elias Ashmole's *Fasciculus Chemicus*,<sup>2</sup> with its motto *Astra regunt homines*. Among other

<sup>1</sup> Letter to Abstrupus Danby, 7th March 1676/7. *Autobiography of Mrs. Thornton.* Surtees Soc. 1875, p. 355.

<sup>2</sup> The *Fasciculus* was a translation of a Latin work by Arthur Dee, son of Dr. John Dee, and was published in 1650.

relatives Comber in after years referred proudly to his great-grandfather, who was a counsellor-at-law and a justice of the peace in the reign of Elizabeth.

James Comber of Allington was baptized at St. John's, Lewes, on 20th August 1615. When his father died his elder brother Francis, now his guardian, sent him to London and apprenticed him to his brother-in-law, Thomas Lulham of Southwark, "citizen and cutler of London." The last-named has been incorrectly described as a grocer.<sup>1</sup> James duly served his time and, according to the records of the Cutlers' Company, was sworn a free cutler on 21st June 1639. He does not seem to have exercised his trade in London, if at all, but he retired to Westerham in Kent, where he married Mary, the youngest surviving daughter of Brian Burton, "an old and loyal yeoman" of that place. She had been baptized there on 14th September 1617, and on the 30th April 1638 married Mr. Edward Hamden, mercer, of Westerham.<sup>2</sup> This marriage lasted less than twelve months, for the husband died on 10th April 1639, and was buried at Westerham two days later. His young widow married James Comber before the year was out. By her first husband she had one daughter, Mary, who later married Thomas Puckle, gentleman, and had by him three daughters: Mary, baptized at Westerham 12th August 1660, Elizabeth, baptized 12th September 1675, and Anne, baptized 9th July 1677. Their mother was buried at Westerham on 29th June 1684. Anne was Thomas Comber's goddaughter, and to her and her sister Mary he left bequests in his will.

The Burtons were a Westerham family and bore arms: *Gules, on a plain cross argent nine fleurs-de-lis azure.* The date of Brian Burton's death is not known, but his widow, *née* Alice Austin, then aged over eighty years, died at Westerham 28th February 1671.

James and Mary Comber had five children: Thomas, baptized at Westerham 5th August 1639 and buried there 3rd September 1641; James, baptized 1st August 1640; John, baptized 1st January 1644 and buried 13th July in the same year; Thomas, afterwards Dean of Durham; and Anne, baptized 3rd January 1652, "a child of great wit and good features," who died 3rd April 1660. Thomas,

<sup>1</sup> *Brevis Narratio Vitæ Meæ.*

<sup>2</sup> His name is given as Holmden in the parish register, but as Hamden in his will, and Thomas Comber calls him Hamden.

the fourth child, was born at Westerham on Wednesday 19th March 1645, and was baptized on the following Sunday by the rev. Charles Bray,<sup>1</sup> the vicar. He was the last child baptized at that font according to the rites of the Church of England until the Restoration, and Mary, the daughter of his half-sister, Mary Puckle, was the first to receive baptism there when the Book of Common Prayer was restored. James Comber was a royalist, and it was perhaps for that reason that he retired to the quiet of Westerham instead of remaining in London, but even there he was not safe, and he had to flee to Flanders, where he remained until 1649, leaving his children in charge of their mother. Brian Burton had his property sequestered and Dean Comber<sup>2</sup> of Carlisle was imprisoned, plundered and deprived.

Thomas was a very delicate child, only kept alive by his mother's assiduous nursing and by the remedies of Mr. Bray, the vicar, who seems to have had some knowledge of medicine. The child was unable to walk till he was four years old, at which time he was sent to an English school, by which is meant a preparatory school, or elementary school, where Latin was not taught. When he was six years old he was removed to the care of a Latin master the reverend Thomas Walter,<sup>3</sup> "a learned old gentleman" who had a flourishing school at Westerham at that time. Here Comber learned Latin and Greek, indeed he tells us that he could read and write Greek before he was ten years old. Mr. Walter was the author of a Greek Grammar, but being now disabled by paralysis he set his youthful pupil to make a fair copy of the work. Writing in 1695 or 1696 the dean said he still possessed this Greek Grammar in manuscript. In 1653, on the advice of his uncle Francis Comber,<sup>4</sup> Thomas spent six months at a school on Tower Hill, kept by John Evans, who had a great reputation as a teacher, but he seems to have disliked Evans

<sup>1</sup> Charles Bray, Trinity College, Oxford. B.A. 1616, M.A. 1620, B.D. 1627. Canon of Wells 1628, Vicar of Westerham 1627 and of West Wickham, Kent, 1651.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Comber, 1575-1653. Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Carlisle. Plundered and deprived 1642. Buried in St. Botolph's, Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Walter, Sizar of Christ's, Cambridge. Married 1621, Margaret Tilman. Five children baptized at Westerham. Buried at Westerham 18th Feb. 1658.

<sup>4</sup> Francis Comber born at Chillington in 1614, became a citizen of London, and married Elizabeth the sister of John Evans. The Evans family came from Radnorshire. Francis Comber died before 24th December 1679, because on that date his widow, then living in the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, proved his will.

and was very unhappy there. In the latter part of the same year he removed to the grammar school at Sevenoaks, then under the charge of John Hooper,<sup>1</sup> who had been usher to Thomas Farnaby, a brilliant classical scholar who kept a well-known school in Goldsmiths-Rents in London until his death in 1647. A severe attack of measles caused Comber to leave Sevenoaks, and for a time he was with Evans again on Tower Hill. In the winter of 1655-56 he was attacked by the small-pox and his life was endangered. After he recovered he went back to his "old and best-beloved master," Mr. Walter, to whom he ascribed the foundation not only of his learning but his religion, and he continued with him until Walter's death, in February 1658. Comber had progressed so well in his studies that he was now thought fit for the university, but the rev. William Holland,<sup>2</sup> now vicar of Westerham, thought him too young, and persuaded his parents to make a year's delay and read the classics with him during that period.

On the 18th April 1659 Thomas, now aged fourteen years, was admitted, "after a fair examination," to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he was placed under the charge of the reverend Edmund Matthews, B.D.,<sup>3</sup> Senior Fellow. Here he had to depend very largely upon his own exertions. He had no wealthy relatives on whom to rely, for the Combers and Burtons had alike suffered for their royalism, and his kinsman,<sup>4</sup> the Dean of Carlisle, who had expressed his intention of befriending him, had died in 1654. Comber found a friend in his tutor, who took an interest in the scholarly boy and gave him the run of his library. The undergraduate was not in those days bound by special prescribed courses, and so he was able to take his own line. Comber studied experimental philosophy, geometry, astronomy, dialling, and other parts of

<sup>1</sup> John Hooper, son of John Hooper, parish clerk and notary of Tonbridge. Sizar of Clare Hall 1632, and Smythe Exhibitioner. B.A. 1636. Head master Sevenoaks School 1654. Buried at Tonbridge, 27th November, 1661.

<sup>2</sup> William Holland, son of George Holland, merchant of Doncaster. Sheffield Grammar School and St. John's, Cambridge. B.A. 1642, Deacon and Priest 1646, Vicar of Westerham 1657, Great Wakering, Essex, 1663-7, All Hallows, Staining, London, 1663-77. Died 1677.

<sup>3</sup> The Rev. Edmund Matthews. Bishop Stortford School and Sidney Sussex College. B.A. 1636-7, M.A. 1640, B.D. 1647, Fellow. His will was proved in 1692.

<sup>4</sup> The *Memoirs* say that this kinsman was the grandson of Thomas Comber of Allington, but it seems certain that he belonged to the Shermanbury branch of the family.

mathematics, music, painting and oriental languages. Mr. Matthews encouraged him "in an excellent method to reduce all that I should read in philosophy and divinity into commonplaces, of which I have found incredible benefit in all my studies." Such of his commonplace books as remain show this very clearly, and as there were no educationists to cry out against overpressure, and as he did not waste half his time in games, Comber became an excellent scholar.

His lack of means might have brought his academic career to an untimely end, had it not been for outside help. The Society of Kentishmen in London had raised a fund of £300 a year for the advancement of education and the assistance of poor scholars in the universities, and Thomas was eligible for the society's benefactions, and a grant was made to him of £10 a year. This result was largely due to the efforts of Mr. Barham,<sup>1</sup> vicar of Great St. Helen's, London. Dr. Richard Minshall,<sup>2</sup> Master of Sidney, also interested himself in the young scholar. About twelve months after Comber's entrance, Dr. Minshall had a relative staying with him, Mr. Walter Pell, a Hamburgh merchant, who on the Master's recommendation gave Comber five pounds a year. He was now able "to live very well," and after that time put his parents to no expense except for clothes and books. In 1663 he was made a scholar of the college, which brought him in an additional five pounds a year and gave him, as he says, "a prospect of absolute plenty." Three days later, on 21st January 1663, "after a strict and public examination," he was admitted to the bachelor's degree, and Mr. Pell was so pleased with his progress that he presented him with an extra five pounds.

He now looked forward to a fellowship, either at his own college or at St. John's, whose Master, Dr. Gunning,<sup>3</sup> had roused great hopes in that direction, but this was deferred, and the Kentishmen discontinued their annual grant because they had decided to devote all their funds to the relief of the nonconforming ministers who had left the Church of England in 1661-2. So, as he says, "with a sorrowful

<sup>1</sup> Arthur Barham. Trinity College, Cambridge. B.A. 1645. Lecturer St. Olave's, Southwark. Rector of St. Helen's 1647-62. Ejected 1662. Died 1692-3 and buried at St. Helen's. He preached Walter's funeral sermon at Westerham.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Minshall. B.A., Sidney Sussex, 1619-20. M.A. 1623, B.D. 1630, D.D. 1644. Fellow, Master 1643-87. Vice-Chancellor 1652-2. Died 1686.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Gunning, 1614-84. M.A. Clare Hall 1635, D.D. 1660. Master of Clare Hall 1660. Master of St. John's and Regius Professor 1661. Bishop of Chichester 1669, of Ely 1675-84.

mind" he bade farewell to the university. He found another friend, however, in a friend of his father, Mr. John Holney of Edenbridge, who gave him a handsome present and told him to draw upon him at any time for any sum he might want. Comber never needed to do so, and relates with some little satisfaction that he was able to present his first book on the Common Prayer to his friend, and also that Mr. Pell lived to hear him preach a sermon in London, with which he was so pleased that he treated him to an excellent dinner and gave him a handsome present.

Lack of funds then was certainly not the sole reason for his leaving Cambridge. The determining cause seems to have been that the possibility of a fellowship had faded. Shortly after his ordination he learnt that his tutor had omitted to notify him of a vacant one, "which I took unkindly" of him. There was perhaps another reason, that Comber's thoughts were turning more in the direction of pastoral work. His old friend Holland, now rector of All Hallows, Staining, was in need of help, and at his request the Bishop of London<sup>1</sup> gave Comber letters dimissory to the Bishop of St. Asaph,<sup>2</sup> and he was made deacon in Henry VII's Chapel, 18th August 1663. He was then only eighteen years old. For a few weeks Comber was "reader" to his old teacher, that is to say, he read the service on Sundays. On weekdays he took the opportunity of studying at Sion College and of listening to the great London preachers and epitomizing their sermons. In less than two months Holland received a letter from the reverend William Mompesson,<sup>3</sup> asking him to find a suitable curate for the living of Stonegrave in Yorkshire. The incumbent there, Gilbert Bennett,<sup>4</sup> had other preferment, and said that if he approved of the man sent to him he would resign the living in his favour after a year or two. On 28th September Comber set out for Yorkshire, visited Cambridge, and preached for Bennett at Bilsthorpe in Nottinghamshire on the way, the third

<sup>1</sup> Gilbert Sheldon. Bishop of London 1660-63. Archbishop of Canterbury 1663-77.

<sup>2</sup> George Griffith, Bishop of St. Asaph 1660-66.

<sup>3</sup> William Mompesson. Peterhouse, Cambridge. B.A. 1658-9, M.A. 1662. Married Catherine, daughter of Ralph Carr of Cocken, Durham. Vicar of Scaleby 1662-4. Rector of Eyam, Derbyshire, 1664-9. There he became famous in the plague time. Rector of Eakring 1669-1709. Preb. of Southwell and York. Vicar-General of Southwell. Died 7th March 1708-9. Buried at Eakring.

<sup>4</sup> Gilbert Bennett. Christ's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1621, M.A. 1624. Rector of Bilsthorpe, Notts, 1625-64. Vicar of Carnaby 1662-4. Rector of Stonegrave 1663. Preb. of Southwell 1660, of York 1667. Died 1669. Buried at Southwell.

sermon he had delivered since his ordination. He found that for his discourses it was only necessary for him to make notes of the heads, and that he could trust to his memory for the inatter and to his invention for its phrasing, “which as it gave great content to the people, so it gave me a great deal of time for study, which I did so employ that I filled my commonplace book in a few years time.” He stayed a few days with Bennett, and on the 17th of October he arrived at Stonegrave. There for the first time he saw the church with which he was to be so long associated. It has Norman arcading, but most of the windows are of the fifteenth century. Seventeenth-century woodwork still remains in the pulpit and the chancel screen, and one of the treasures of the church is a Saxon wheel-head cross about six feet in height. Now began his connexion with the Thornton family at East Newton. The Thorntons were for several centuries lords of that manor, probably deriving their name, De Thornton in its original form, from the manor of Thornton ten miles or so from Stonegrave. They had acquired East Newton by the marriage, about A.D. 1300, of William de Thornton and Isabel, daughter and coheiress of William de Newton. The William Thornton of Comber’s time married Alice, second daughter of Christopher Wandesford<sup>1</sup> of Kirklington, Yorkshire, by Alice only daughter of Sir Hewett Osborne of Kiveton in the same county. Sir Hewett’s grandson, Sir Thomas Osborne, became Earl of Danby and Duke of Leeds.

At Stonegrave Comber soon made his mark. His future mother-in-law, Mrs. Alice Thornton, tells us: “Mr. Bennett gave my husband a most excellent character for his learning, ability for God’s service, and his gifts in preaching, though he was young.”<sup>2</sup> His first sermon, on Ps. xix. 7, seems to have won him golden opinions. He preached every Sunday morning and catechized every Sunday afternoon, and prayers were said regularly on Wednesdays and Fridays. He expounded the Scriptures methodically upon every holy day, “and catechized the youth in the whole parish, who were much improved by it.” At first he lodged at Stonegrave at the house of Mr. Masterman; from thence he moved to the house of Mr. Tully,

<sup>1</sup> Christopher Wandesford succeeded the Earl of Strafford as Lord Deputy of Ireland in April 1640. In that year Charles I made him Baron Mowbray and Musters and Viscount Castlerosse. He died 3rd December 1640.

<sup>2</sup> *Autobiography of Mrs. Thornton.* Surtees Soc., 1875, p. 216.

While Comber was away in the south that year, Bennett came to Stonegrave at Whitsuntide to collect his tithes. He was paying the curate £40 a year, and he revealed that he proposed to find a man who would be content to take the Sunday services only at a fee of £10 a year. He was not the only one who thought of a living as a source of income rather than a cure of souls. The Thorntons were up in arms at the idea, and after some bargaining it was agreed that Bennett should lease the living to the Thorntons for £100 a year, the latter to find a clergyman at their own expense. Bennett then demanded the full profits for the year ending that Whitsuntide, and refused to complete the transaction till Thornton paid £100 down. He was unable to do so, but Mrs. Thornton raised the money by a lease of some land left her by her mother. Even then the Thorntons were made to pay all the legal expenses. Mr. Bennett was now empowered to draw £100 a year for the next twenty-one years without doing anything to earn it. However, he did not live long after this. Mrs. Thornton next made an agreement with Comber that if he should remove to any other preferment he should give up Stonegrave to her son Robert, "which would be an excellent advantage for his spiritual and temporal preferment." Robert Thornton was then four years old. Lord Freschville<sup>1</sup> endeavoured to get the advowson of Stonegrave as an appendage to the East Newton property, and took counsel's opinion on the matter, but he was advised that the King, who held the advowson, could only part with it for his own lifetime, and that to obtain this limited right of presentation would cost Thornton £300. So no further steps were taken.<sup>2</sup> Comber went to London to beg the Archbishop<sup>3</sup> of Canterbury to accept Bennett's resignation and to obtain his own presentation to Stonegrave. The archbishop<sup>3</sup> opposed the resignation, fearing lest Bennett should then look to him for other preferment. Comber's disappointing journey to London was in November, and he noted that he "saw the cellars still smoking from the late dreadful fire."

<sup>1</sup> John Lord Freschville, son of Sir Peter Freschville of Staveley, Derbyshire, Kt., by Joyce, daughter of Sir Miles Fleetwood of London, Kt., and widow of Sir Hewett Osborne of Kiveton, Yorks, bart. He was thus half-brother to Mrs. Thornton's mother. Created Baron Freschville of Staveley by Charles II. When he died in 1682 the Freschville barony became extinct.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Alice Thornton, *Autobiography*, p. 219.

<sup>3</sup> Comber says this was Gilbert, Archbishop of Canterbury; perhaps he was concerned because it was in the gift of the King.

At the end of this year Lord Freschville, at his niece's request, made him his domestic chaplain. The two had great regard for each other.

Comber now spent all his spare time in assiduous study, except for an occasional jaunt to York to see Alice Thornton, who was finishing her education there, and for a visit to Scarborough in August 1667 to recuperate after a dangerous attack of fever. This quiet life was shattered for a time by the death of William Thornton of paralysis at Malton 17th September 1668. Comber had brought him from presbyterianism to the Church of England. Thornton was a well-read man and could appreciate his young friend's learning. He left the guardianship of his children, Robert, Alice and Katherine, to his wife. His affairs were left in great confusion and his widow was grateful for Comber's advice and help. The fact that she was forty-two and he was twenty-three did not prevent the gossips from talking about her kindness to him. Even before her husband's death Mr. Tancred<sup>1</sup> had laid a wager of £100 with Lady Yorke that if Thornton died the widow would marry Comber within a month. Tancred was a great enemy of the Thorntons on account of a dispute about a mortgage at Laisthorpe.<sup>2</sup> Thornton was furious with him about this bet and Mrs. Thornton called him "that abominable beast."

Various ladies had been suggested as possible wives for Comber. Dr. Christopher Stone<sup>3</sup> had proposed his own daughter, but Comber had refused. He had also received an offer of a daughter and a living of £100 a year from Mr. Holland, but he was determined to marry Alice Thornton, his late patron's daughter. Some of the Thornton relatives tried to put obstacles in the way. Lady Yorke,<sup>4</sup> who was Alice's godmother, said it was not a fit match, and another relative proposed that the girl should be taken away from her mother. It was decided, therefore, at Comber's earnest request, that there should be a secret marriage. Comber went to York on 5th November,

<sup>1</sup> Charles Tancred of Arden in the parish of Hawnby, married Elizabeth Crossland of Helmsley in 1626. He compounded for £280 after the Civil War. Mrs. Thornton speaks of him as "old Mr. Tankerd." There was a younger Charles Tancred who lived until 1711.

<sup>2</sup> Laisthorpe is a hamlet in the parish of Stonegrave.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Christopher Stone. Deacon 1635. Priest 1637. Rector of Dalby 1640, Sigston 1655-69, Scrayingham 1663, Beeford 1669-86. Died November 1686. Chancellor of York 1661-86.

<sup>4</sup> Mary, daughter of Maulger Norton by his marriage with Anne Wandesford, was a cousin of Mrs. Thornton. She married Sir John Yorke; J.P., of Gowthorpe, Richmond, Yorkshire.

" who was much in love with his person and preaching." But Tully lived at Ness, two miles from the parish church, and Mr. Thornton felt that in journeying backward and forward so often as he did he wasted much precious time: moreover the lodgings were somewhat rough. After much discussion it was agreed that Comber should live with the Thorntons at East Newton, where he would be a companion to Mr. Thornton and could conduct family prayers and catechize the children of the family, while his host should provide a horse for his parish visiting. Comber went to Newton Hall on 13th March 1665 and was there till Thornton's death.

East Newton is about five miles from Helmsley. The manor house is in the parish of Stonegrave and overlooks Ryedale. It had been rebuilt by Thornton at the time of his marriage. It had two wings and these only are still in existence, the west wing being used as a farmhouse and the east as a barn. There was an underground passage leading from the west wing in the direction of a pond in the orchard, which may at one time have formed part of a moat. The entrance to this passage was in the scullery of the farmhouse, but was filled in in 1929, because the floor had collapsed. The old chapel, which Mrs. Thornton wished to restore, has disappeared, unless a small building standing in an adjacent field, still known as the Chapel Garth, may represent some portion of it. In this field the plough occasionally turns up fragments of masonry which may be part of the foundations of an earlier building or perhaps of the outbuildings of the manor house.

Early in 1664 Comber, on the death of the vicar, Ralph Watson,<sup>1</sup> was offered the living of Dalby in the North Riding of Yorkshire. He refused it for himself and obtained it for his friend Charles Man,<sup>2</sup> whom he calls an old-time companion of his studies. "After a solemn strict examination" Comber was ordained priest by Archbishop Sterne<sup>3</sup> 25th September 1664. Seeing that he was not yet twenty years old there was some comment on this uncanonical proceeding, but Comber had the satisfaction, years afterwards, of hear-

<sup>1</sup> Ralph Watson. Brasenose College, Oxford. B.A. 1621. Rector of Trusley, Derbyshire, 1629. Vicar of Dalby. Died 1664.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Man. Born 1640. B.A. Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Vicar of Dalby 1666-8, of Scawton 1668-76, of Gilling 1676-1710. Died 1710.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Sterne. D.D. Master of Jesus College, Cambridge. Bishop of Carlisle 1660-64. Archbishop of York 1664-83. Author of a treatise on logic. One of the translators of the Polyglot Bible.

ing the matter referred to in the archbishop's presence, and also of hearing the blunt archiepiscopal reply: "I have found no reason to repent." Comber, about the time of his ordination, defended his position in a discourse, *An Apology for Young Ministers*.

In 1665 he composed for Mrs. Thornton's benefit some *Catechetical Notes on the Apostles' Creed*, a manuscript of some sixty quarto pages. He also purchased an interleaved Bible in two volumes, in which he inserted notes from the Fathers and later commentators. In May of the following year he journeyed to Cambridge, where he performed with credit the necessary exercises for the degree of M.A. After this he went on to London where he visited his brother James, whose children had all been carried off by the plague. James had been apprenticed to John Wolstancroft, a merchant taylor of Fleet Street, and was admitted a freeman in 1661. He married Hannah Harper, daughter of alderman Harper of Stockport. She herself had been attacked by the plague but had escaped with her life. The brother's visit was no doubt a comfort to the bereaved parents. From London Thomas Comber went to visit his relatives in Westerham. From thence he had intended to return to Yorkshire by way of Cambridge, where he had purposed to take his M.A. degree, but the plague had broken out there and Commencement was postponed, so he had to be admitted by proxy, his friend John Carter<sup>1</sup> acting for him.

Some time in 1664 he had made proposals of marriage to a lady "whom he highly extols for endowments of body and mind."<sup>2</sup> but she refused him. In 1666 he began "to cast eyes of affection" towards Thornton's eldest daughter, Alice, and though her father did not forbid the suit, he insisted on a delay of some years, the girl being only twelve years old.<sup>3</sup> Comber himself hints that the parents looked favourably upon the match as a means to keep him in the north. His old friend Holland had, early in the same year, offered to resign in his favour his rectory of Wakering in Essex, worth £80 a year, but Comber thought it an unhealthy place; the north had now its special attraction and he had hopes of the living of Stonegrave.

<sup>1</sup> John Carter entered Sidney Sussex College in 1659, the same year as Comber. B.A. 1662-3, M.A. 1666.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> She was born at Hipswell 3rd and baptized 5th January 1654.

"a most eminent day in the Church of England," Mrs. Thornton called it, and obtained a licence, and the young couple were married in the Scarlet Chamber at East Newton Hall on the 17th, Comber's friend Charles Man performing the service, the only other persons present being Mrs. Thornton and three maid-servants, Daphne and Mary Lightfoot and Hannah Ableson. The bride was scarcely fifteen. The entry in the Stonegrave register is in Comber's own hand. The marriage settlement was dated 17th November 1668, but another was subsequently made in August 1692. The reverend John Denton,<sup>1</sup> who had married Mrs. Thornton's sister Elizabeth, was invited to be present, but refused. As a good deal of gossip was going round the marriage was publicly announced at an assembly of relatives and friends on 19th May 1669. "At night they had a good supper, and those usual solemnities of marriage of getting the bride to bed, with a good deal of decency and modesty of all parties was this solemnity performed."<sup>2</sup> Comber had some claims to a gift for verse-making, and he addressed a poem to his bride on their wedding-day,<sup>3</sup> and during the ensuing year some more verses entitled, *Good Counsel to Modest Ladies by T.C.* We cannot tell what effect this poem had on the lady, but the marriage was without doubt a very happy one, and when he took his bride to Westerham in 1675 his relatives were all pleased with her gentle ways.

Comber was devoted to his mother-in-law. Mrs. Thornton was either very unfortunate or a very poor manager of her own affairs, and in 1673 nearly came into the law courts over a pecuniary transaction. Her son-in-law entered warmly into her interests, and the trouble was finally settled by the intervention of Lord Freschville.<sup>4</sup>

By Freschville's influence the Archbishop was induced in June 1669 to accept Bennett's resignation of Stonegrave. Next, with the assistance of powerful friends, he obtained from the King its presentation to Comber, who was instituted by the archbishop on 9th October and inducted on the 12th by Charles Man, now vicar of Scawton. Comber had been down with fever and only recovered in time for

<sup>1</sup> John Denton, Clare Hall, Cambridge, ejected from Oswaldkirk 1662. Lived at East Newton. Returned to Church of England later, and officiated at Stonegrave. Preb. of Husthwaite, York, 1694. In charge of Stonegrave till 1700. Died 16th January 1709.

<sup>2</sup> *Mrs. Thornton*, pp. 224-33.

<sup>3</sup> *Memoirs*, pp. 408-9.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.

the institution, which could not be postponed as the archbishop was leaving for town next day. Bennett died shortly after this.

In the earlier half of 1670 Comber paid a visit to his family in Kent, and among the letters extant is one from his father thanking him for his visit, regretting that he had not brought his wife with him, and hoping that he would do so next time. James Comber, however, was never to see his daughter-in-law in this world, for he died at Harwich, whither he had gone on business, on 1st February 1671, and was buried in the churchyard there. On the last day of the same month, Mrs. Burton, Comber's maternal grandmother, died at Westerham. She was over eighty years of age, and her grandson notes that she had lived to see sixty-six persons descended from herself and her husband. After James Comber's death his widow went to Yorkshire to live with her son Thomas.<sup>1</sup> She died at Stonegrave, aged fifty-four years, on 13th May 1672. For her comfort and consolation in her last days Comber wrote a paper : *Considerations about the fear and pains of death*. She was buried on the 15th at the south side of the altar in Stonegrave church, where a brass plate with an inscription and a genealogical tree still stands to her memory. Comber's grief at losing her threw him into a dangerous fever.

On the brass plate just mentioned the family name is spelt Comber. In a letter to Mrs. Thornton<sup>2</sup> the mother spelt her name Cumbar. Thomas himself, on his admission to Sidney Sussex College and on taking his B.A. degree, signed Cumber, and some of his correspondents wrote his name in the same way. Doctors Cave and Hickes addressed him as Cumber well on into the eighties of that century. He himself in his letters and books writes Comber. The variation is not merely an example of the vagaries of seventeenth-century spelling, it throws light on the pronunciation of the name.

Comber's studies led him into correspondence with other scholars. As early as 1665 he was writing to Dr. Peter Samways<sup>3</sup> on the subject of the value to be assigned to the Septuagint. Both of them were

<sup>1</sup> There is a letter from her to Mrs. Thornton dated 20th February 1668-9 in *Mrs. Thornton*, p. 300.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Peter Samways, 1615-93. D.D. Trinity College, Cambridge. Ejected from Cheshunt, Herts, during the Civil War. Rector of Wath, near Ripon, after the Restoration, and shortly afterwards of Bedale. Preb. of York 1668-93.

Hebrew scholars, and they wrote to one another on various learned matters. In 1668 Comber wrote on behalf of himself and other subscribers to the *Synopsis Criticorum* to Matthew Poole,<sup>1</sup> the learned author of that work. He made various suggestions for its enlargement, even though such additions might delay the publication of the later volumes. In 1673 he received a Latin letter from Mr. Hayes, master of Coxwold School,<sup>2</sup> concerning liturgical works.

A room in a turret at East Newton is pointed out as the place where Comber wrote part of his chief work, his great commentary on the Book of Common Prayer, his *Companion to the Temple and the Closet*. The first part dealt with the daily offices, the second was the "Companion to the Altar." A third part dealt with the Litany and Occasional Prayers, and a fourth with the Occasional Offices. The four parts were published together in a folio volume in 1684, the first of them had appeared in 1672. The edition of 1684 was adorned with a frontispiece representing the Creator, a human figure with a plain nimbus, applying a pair of compasses to a sphere. About the time the first part appeared Comber was busy on a commentary on the Gospels on much the same lines, but it never reached publication. The MS. of the first few chapters of St. Matthew still existed in his great-grandson's time.

An interleaved almanac (Gallen's for 1674) in York minster library contains memoranda of a miscellaneous kind written by Comber. He noted the dates of the opening and prorogation of Parliament and of an ecclesiastical visitation. There are jottings on domestic affairs, e.g., "pease set in the orchard on Jan. 15th," "French and scarlet beans planted on April 14th." There is what looks like a shopping list; "a pound of powdered sugar, an ounce of 'London glew,'" and amongst numerous other things, "wife's shoes." There are short lists of expenses, private and domestic, and for repairs to buildings at Laystrop (Laisthorpe), lists of books borrowed and lent, and a list of nine books begun and finished, which lists show the width of his reading—the whole a pleasant light upon the life of a seventeenth-century parson.

In Easter term 1674 he published a tract entitled *Friendly and*

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Poole. Ejected at Restoration from St. Michael's le Quern. Author of *Synopsis Criticorum*. 5 vols. 1666-76.

<sup>2</sup> Coxwold School has no record of this Mr. Hayes.

*Seasonable Advice to the Roman Catholics of England.* In 1686,<sup>1</sup> when James II was causing anxiety to the Protestant party, Comber's name appeared. The previous editions of this sixpenny tract had been published anonymously. There were two prefatory letters, one "to his honoured and worthy friend Mr. S. B." speaks of "the true Catholic religion of the English Church," the second "to his esteemed friend Mr. W. R."<sup>2</sup> says that the latter's account of the speedy dispersing of this little tract had encouraged him to hope that it had been influential. The general line taken is characteristic of all the anti-Roman controversialists of the period. When you have read one you have read all. The Church of Rome, which is only part of Christendom, has made additions to the faith from motives of desire for money and from priestly assumption. The new doctrines have been established by lying wonders and stories and by forgeries and falsification of documents. He asserts that England resisted the papal claims in the Middle Ages. In England the King, not the Pope, is supreme over all. And so on.

There is a family tradition that there was a particular reason for the original publication of this work. Comber was a friend of the Fauconbergs. Lady Fauconberg, a daughter of the Protector Oliver, was a staunch churchwoman and complained to him that certain Roman Catholics were trying to convert her husband.<sup>3</sup> Lord Fauconberg asked him to write down the arguments which Comber had used in the course of their conversations, and further desired him to print them.<sup>4</sup> Comber says that he was induced to publish them because of the severity of the penal laws, thinking that in their sufferings they would be inclined to reconsider their beliefs. He does not seem to have realized that persecution usually produces the opposite effect.

In 1685 John Gother, a former Anglican who had become a Roman priest and lived mostly in London, published a pamphlet

<sup>1</sup> The printed copy of this work bears the date 1685, but it was really published in Hilary Term 1686.

<sup>2</sup> It has been suggested that Richard Royston, 1589-1686, bookseller to Charles II and Master of the Stationers' Company 1673 and 1674 is intended, but there is no evidence for this, and the first initial is against it.

<sup>3</sup> Fauconberg, Thomas, second Viscount, son-in-law of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding, lived at Newborough.

<sup>4</sup> The story is weakened by Comber's words in his *History of my Life*, where he says in 1677 Lord Fauconberg "perceived that I was the author of the Advice."

entitled : *A Papist Misrepresented and Represented*. The result was a spate of pamphlets. In one of these, *A Reply to the Answer of the Amicable Accommodation*, Being a Fourth Vindication of the "Papist Misrepresented and Represented," the author accused Comber of mis-statement of Catholic teaching, and in particular of falsifying statements of St. Gregory and Baronius.<sup>1</sup> Comber wrote a short answer to be printed with the rest of an answer to the *Fourth Vindication*, but it arrived too late to be included. The work referred to was *A View of the whole Controversy between the Representer and the Answerer*. It was published in 1687.

On 10th December 1674 a son was born to Comber, but it died before it could be baptized. In the following year Comber and his wife visited the relatives at Westerham. The *Memoirs* give the notes of one of the two sermons he preached there at this time, a discourse on Matt. vii. 12, delivered on 4th July. A second son, John, was born on 3rd January 1676, his mother's birthday, was privately baptized the next day and publicly received into the Church on the 6th.<sup>2</sup> His godparents were Sir Christopher Wandesford,<sup>3</sup> Lord Freschville and Lady Yorke. The child died on 22nd April 1677 and was buried the following day.

As early as 1674 Comber was in correspondence with Lord Fauconberg on the subject of additional preferment, and he asked him to use his influence with Sir Hugh Cholmley,<sup>4</sup> who had a living at his disposal, that of Thornton-le-Dale, ten miles from Stonegrave. The influence of the Lord Treasurer, Danby, a cousin of Mrs. Thornton, was brought to bear on Sir Hugh, who promised that Comber should have Thornton when it became vacant. Freschville also applied on his behalf to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to Dr. Gunning, now Bishop of Chichester, but nothing came of it. In April 1676 Lord Freschville heard from Danby that the King had promised that Comber should have the first vacant prebend of Durham, and the Lord Treasurer had undertaken to acquaint Bishop

<sup>1</sup> Cardinal Cæsar Baronius (1538-1607) wrote *Annales Ecclesiasticæ*. 12 vols., folio. 1588-1607.

<sup>2</sup> The Stonegrave Registers give his baptism as taking place on the 6th.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Christopher Wandesford of Kirklington, 1628-87. Created a baronet 1662. M.P. for Ripon. Married Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Lowther of Lowther.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Hugh Cholmley 1632-88. Son of Sir Hugh Cholmley of Whitby, bart. Engineer. Married Lady Anne Compton, daughter of Earl of Northampton. Baronet 1665. Surveyor-General of the Mole of Tangier.

Crewe with his majesty's gracious promise, to the intent that it might not be forgotten. The Bishop of Durham, however, kept a jealous eye on his own patronage, and Freschville wrote again on 23rd of May to say that the bishop had "greatly opposed the execution of the King's promise on pretence of other engagements." He added that the Archbishop of York intended to offer Comber the vacant prebend of Holme in York minster, but advised him not to be in too much haste to be installed, as a better prebend was intended for him, if one should fall vacant. The official offer was made in 1677, and Dr. Henry Watkinson<sup>1</sup> advised him to accept, which he did, was installed on 5th July and preached his first sermon as prebendary on the 15th. It was not his first sermon in the minster, because he had preached there at the Trinity ordination in 1674.

In 1677 Comber took part in a dispute with the Quakers. It came about in this way. In 1675 a clergyman printed anonymously *A Friendly Conference<sup>2</sup> between a Minister and a Parishioner of his inclining to Quakerism*. This in part dealt with the subject of tithes. The right of the clergy to these has been disputed almost from the Reformation to the present day, the attitude of the dissenters being that they had conscientious objections to paying for the maintenance of the clergy with whose principles they disagreed. The Quakers were hotly opposed to tithes, and since the Restoration Thomas Stordy, Francis Howgill and John Audland, among the Quaker leaders, had written strongly on the subject. Thomas Ellwood in 1676 in *Truth Prevailing and Detecting Error* replied to the clergyman, and in his last chapter attacked tithes. His opponent replied in 1677 with *A Vindication of 'The Friendly Conference' from the Exceptions of Thomas Ellwood*, and Comber in the same year published *The Right of Tithes Asserted and Proved from Divine Institution, Primitive Practice, Voluntary Donations and Positive Laws*. He did not put his name to this production, thinking that if it were known to be by an Anglican cleric it might be looked on with prejudice at the outset. Ellwood, however, guessed it was by a clergyman, but thought it was the original controversialist, and addressed him thus: "If thou art a tithe receiver of any kind there is great danger lest

<sup>1</sup> Henry Watkinson, LL.D. Padua. Rector of Beeston, Notts. Chancellor of York 1686. Died 1711 and buried in St. Cuthbert's, York.

<sup>2</sup> *The Friendly Conference* is said to have been written by Edward Fowler, afterwards Bishop of Gloucester 1691-1714.

interest, misguiding thy understanding, should hinder thee from discovering the truth." In 1678 Ellwood continued his attack in *The Foundation of Tithes Shaken*, in which he ascribed the worst motives to the clergy and said of Comber's contribution to the controversy that there was more art than argument in it: "It was indeed a hash of ill-cooked Crambe, set off with as much flourish as the author was master of, and swelled into a bulk by so many quotations, but those so wretchedly misgiven, misapplied or perverted, that to a judicious and impartial reader I durst oppose my *Foundation of Tithes Shaken* to the utmost force that book has in it."<sup>1</sup> Early in 1678 Comber attacked the Quaker claim to inspiration and revelation in *Christianity no Enthusiasm*, and followed it up in 1680 with *The Right of Tithes Reasserted*. It dealt largely with Selden's *History of Tithes*,<sup>2</sup> and was a stout volume of over 450 pages. The Introduction poured scorn on the Quakers and their learning. Though Ellwood was not mentioned by name, Comber spent some thirty pages on the mistakes of *The Foundation of Tithes Shaken*, and there is at least as much of an attack on Ellwood as on Selden. He said of the former: "He had not humility, patience and charity enough to make him a scholar, nor ingenuity enough to render him a fair adversary, nor indeed integrity sufficient to demonstrate him as an honest man." Ellwood says he wrote some sheets in reply but never finished nor published them.

Comber was now held in high repute in many quarters. Archbishop Sancroft urged him to proceed to his divinity degrees at Cambridge, and as he could not be persuaded to do so, determined to create him a Doctor of Divinity himself. "I think more of him than you are aware of," he said to Lord Freschville. Sir John Bennet,<sup>3</sup> who only knew Comber by his writings, spoke of him in high terms to Joseph Lane,<sup>4</sup> a member of the Middle Temple and Comptroller of London, with whom Comber had commenced a warm friendship in 1670. He told Lane that he had recommended one of Comber's books to his brother Arlington, who had promised

<sup>1</sup> *Life of Thomas Ellwood*, 1714, pp. 317-18.

<sup>2</sup> John Selden's *History of Tithes*, 1618.

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Bennet, K.C.B., elder brother of Lord Arlington, the Lord Chamberlain, and afterwards created Lord Ossulston.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Lane. Peterhouse, Cambridge. B.A. 1660-1, M.A. 1664. Middle Temple, 1664. Called to Bar 1671. Bencher 1692. Comptroller of Chamber of City of London and Vice-Chamberlain.

to bring the author to the notice of King Charles. Through Lane he sent him an urgent invitation to visit him in London, as he wished to make his acquaintance, and he sent him five guineas towards the expenses of the journey. So in May 1679 Comber went to London and was received with great friendliness by Sir John, who offered to recommend him for a royal chaplaincy, which he declined. Bennet took him to Court and introduced him to the princesses Mary and Anne. The latter publicly thanked him in the name of herself and her sister for his *Companion to the Temple*, the third part of which<sup>1</sup> she had read in preparation for her first Communion. While he was in London the archbishop conferred on him the degree of D.D., and he told Mrs. Thornton that it had only cost him £20, but "that is far short of £100 and 'tis as honourable in every point as at Commencement." Sir John Bennet promised him the first good living at his disposal, and Comber was invited to preach at the Guildhall for the Lord Mayor. Returning northward after this memorable trip to town he, with his friend Lane, visited Durham, which the future dean saw for the first time on 23rd July.

A son was born to Comber on 19th November 1678 and was baptized on the 26th, his sponsors being Dr. Henry Watkinson, Mr. Lane and Mrs. Thornton. A few months afterwards the child, Thomas by name, was dangerously ill, but recovered. Nevertheless he had but a short life, for he died on 26th April 1681. He was buried next day under the south end of the altar in Stonegrave church, by Charles Man, who preached a funeral sermon. His father described him as a child of great hopes who could sing true notes before he could speak.

In 1678 on the death of Christopher Bradley,<sup>2</sup> rector of Thornton-le-Dale, Fauconberg and Danby used their influence with Sir Hugh Cholmley to present Comber to the living, which he did, telling the latter at the same time that he did not approve of pluralities, but was sure that in his case the Church would be properly served. Sir Hugh was specially interested because his home was at Roxby, a mile to the west of Thornton church. The Archbishop of Canter-

<sup>1</sup> *The Companion to the Altar.*

<sup>2</sup> Christopher Bradley. Peterhouse, Cambridge. B.A. 1630-1, M.A. 1634. Priest Peterborough 1638. Rector of Thornton-le-dale 1645-78. Author of *Sermons*. Died 1689.

bury granted Comber a dispensation to hold the two livings in plurality as they were only about ten miles apart.

Thornton-le-Dale church in its present form dates more or less from the fourteenth century. Almshouses and a grammar school in the village date from the seventeenth century. The latter has been in use until recent years, but a new school was built at Pickering some years back and superseded it. Comber was instituted on 11th February 1679, inducted by Marmaduke Wykes, vicar of Ellerburn on the 17th, and preached his first sermon there on the 19th. Comber kept a curate there, and Dr. Granville<sup>1</sup> of Durham, in a letter to Comber in September 1683, said that he had boasted to all his friends about the excellent example of Dr. Comber in strictly maintaining the daily services, but some of them who had passed through Thornton had found the curate very negligent, both in respect of the daily prayers and regular catechizing. Pluralities were, as a rule, far from being a success.

On 11th April 1679 Comber was elected a proctor in Convocation for the archdeaconry of Cleveland, and for the rest of his days he was a member of that assembly. Carried away by his Protestantism he was one of the many thousands who were deluded by the lying stories about a popish plot, and he collected a lot of gossip as evidence that the Catholics in his neighbourhood were preparing to rise. He also wrote some satiric verses on the Roman Church.<sup>2</sup> In politics he was a loyal supporter of Danby, and he wrote to Lord Freschville on 10th March 1679 concerning him: "I have convinced most of those I have conversed with that it was a French and popish design to start this his accusation, the French hoping thereby to remove their single enemy the Lord Treasurer, or their body of enemies the Parliament: and the papists hoping that if it took, the fury of the House of Commons would be spent on private revenge, and the prosecution of the plot diverted, or if it did not that, it must make faction between the two houses of parliament, or disgust the King so highly as to prorogue or dissolve them."

<sup>1</sup> Denis Granville 1637-1703, son of Sir Bevil Granville. Rector Kilkhampton 1662. Preb. Durham and Archdeacon of Durham and Rector of Easington 1662. Rector of Sedgefield 1667. Dean of Durham 1684. Non-juror 1688 and went to France.

<sup>2</sup> A specimen will be found on pp. 420-29 of the *Memoirs*.

Elizabeth, Viscountess Lumley,<sup>1</sup> had by will bequeathed the sum of about £140 a year to pious uses, part of which money went to the funds of the free school at Thornton, the rector of Thornton always to be one of the trustees. The bequest had been mismanaged by Nicholas Gray,<sup>2</sup> vicar of Sinnington, and Comber therefore took over the control of it. He paid some debts, improved the rents, let leases, and paid the pensioners punctually, refusing however to accept the salary of twenty nobles per annum which former treasurers had always received. This was a praiseworthy piece of unselfishness, for he was not a wealthy man. The church at Thornton being in bad condition he spent a considerable sum out of his own pocket in 1681 in repairing the roof, floor and windows and in putting in new altar rails.

In the spring of 1680 Sir John Bennet offered him the living of Harlington, in Middlesex, promising to make it worth at least £150 a year and to get him also a London lectureship worth £100 a year. He was forced, however, to decline the offer: he was feeling more and more bound to the north and his wife was much attached to their Yorkshire home. Mrs. Thornton also had to be considered, and as he expressed it: "the Family at Newton not willing to let me go." His daughter Alice was born 8th March 1681 and baptized at Stonegrave by Mr. William Walker<sup>3</sup> on the 15th. Mr. Thomas Worsley<sup>4</sup> of Hovingham was her godfather and Mrs. Portington<sup>5</sup> and Mrs. Thornton her godmothers. She was twice married, first to Francis Blackburne of Richmond and secondly to William Kirkby of Kirkby Ireleth, Lancs, and died in 1740.

In 1681 Comber published *An Historical Vindication of the Divine Right of Tithes*. This was a formal answer to John Selden's *History of Tithes*, published in 1618. The second part of this was

<sup>1</sup> Widow of Sir William Sandys and daughter of Sir William Cornwallis; second wife of Richard, first Viscount Lumley. She was buried 2nd February 1658. She founded the school and twelve almshouses at Thornton by her will dated 1657.

<sup>2</sup> Nicholas Gray. Sidney Sussex College. B.A. 1660-1, M.A. 1664. Vicar of Sinnington 1663. Rector of Normanby 1671-1701.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. William Walker. This is probably William Walker. B.A. Sidney 1674-5. Deacon 1677. Priest 1678. Curate of Bridlington.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Thomas Worsley of Hovingham Hall, married Mary, daughter of Henry Arthington of Arthington. He was Deputy-Lieutenant in 1688 and died 1715. There is a marble monument to him in Hovingham Church.

<sup>5</sup> Frances, Mr. William Thornton's sister, in 1663 married Timothy Portington, gent, an apothecary of New Malton. He died 1697. His widow died and was buried at Malton in 1705.

issued in 1685. The *Memoirs* say that this came out in 1681, but this seems incorrect. Included in the second part was *A Discourse concerning Excommunication*. In 1681 he entered into the political field with a pamphlet entitled *Religion and Loyalty supporting each other*. The author's name was not given, but the work was said to be by "a true son of the Church of England." The author said his purpose was to convince the Duke of York that no person in the line of succession to the throne of England ought to embrace popery. At the same time he tried to persuade the people of England that they ought not to attempt to change the succession. A copy was sent to the duke, who was then in Scotland, but the writer's name was not revealed to him. About this time Comber wrote to "C. W." most probably Christopher Wandesford, and referring to the latter's family motto and crest, the crest a church, and the motto: "*Tout pour l'église*," he urged him to abstain from the violent measures of the Exclusionists. If the Duke of York had been trying to obtain the crown by treasonable practices it would have been different. He wished there were an honest way of preventing the accession of a papist to the throne, but he took comfort in three things: the King had offered securities, the duke was old, and his children were Protestants.

In 1681 Robert-Clavell<sup>1</sup> published *The Church Catechism with a brief and easy Explanation thereof, for the help of the meanest Capacities and weakest Memories*. By T.C., D.D. This was a small pamphlet in two sheets and sold at twopence. It was reprinted in 1686. Thomas Comber the younger, referring to the year 1665, says: "It was doubtless in the course of this year that he composed the catechism, which he afterwards printed, and he laid the plan of it so that all the answers are 'Yes' or 'No.'"<sup>2</sup> Again he says: "It first made its appearance in the year 1674. An interleaved copy of this little tract exists in the author's handwriting. The blank leaves betwixt the parts of the catechism itself are filled with an exact analysis of the whole, and those betwixt the different parts of the explanation are filled with an enlargement and improvement thereof,

<sup>1</sup> Mr. R. Clavell was called by Barlow, Bishop of Lincoln, the honest bookseller. He published most of Comber's works. He was Master of the Stationers' Company in 1698-99. See Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes*, III, 608. He published a General Catalogue of Books 1666-76 and continued it till 1700.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, p. 34.

with proofs selected from Holy Scripture. These manuscript notes appear, however, to have been only heads of what he spoke by way of discourse after the catechumens had answered the different questions in the catechism itself and the subjoined explanations."<sup>1</sup>

The *Term Catalogues* do not mention any publication of this work in 1674. The question of the date is still more complicated by the fact that the interleaved copy of this work in the Durham cathedral library is dated 1662. But Comber was not ordained until 1663, and this suggests that the date must be a misprint. In this copy the Catechism is printed in one column, with questions in another column, sometimes on a separate page, the arrangement being as follows :

*The Catechism.*

*The Questions.*

Made a member of Christ.	Were you solemnly admitted a member of Christ?	Yes.
A child of God.	a child of God?	Yes.
An inheritor of the Kingdom of heaven.	And an heir of the Kingdom of heaven?	Yes.

Comber's notes are written on the interleaved pages. This is probably the copy referred to by his great-grandson. The latter may be right in saying the tract was first published in 1674. The *Term Catalogues* give it as a new publication in 1681, but they are not always to be depended on. In 1662 Comber was only seventeen years old. The *Memoirs* say that he wrote a paraphrase of the Apostles' Creed, which seems to have been designed to complete the Catechism, but was too lengthy to be written on the blank page opposite the Creed.

On the fourteenth of July 1681 Comber preached the Assize Sermon at York before Justices Dolben<sup>2</sup> and Gregory,<sup>3</sup> and at their request and that of the high sheriff, the sermon was published in the following year under the title, *The Nature, Necessity and Usefulness of solemn judicial Swearing*. The text was Heb. vi. 18. In his discourse the preacher spoke severely of the flagrant evils of the day, the verdicts contrary to the evidence, the frequent indictments for subornation of witnesses and the prevalence of perjury.

<sup>1</sup> *Memoirs*, p. 208.

<sup>2</sup> Sir William Dolben, son of the Archbishop of York. Inner Temple, barrister 1653, bencher 1672, reader 1677. Recorder City of London 1676. Judge of King's Bench 1678. Dismissed 1683. Returned to King's Bench 1689. Died 1694.

<sup>3</sup> Sir William Gregory. Fellow of All Souls', Oxford. Gray's Inn. Serjeant 1677. M.P. 1678 and 1679. Speaker of House of Commons 1679. Baron of the Exchequer 1679. Dismissed 1686. Judge of the King's Bench 1689. Died 1696.

On 6th July Archbishop Sterne offered Comber a better prebend, that of Fenton, just vacated by George Tully.<sup>1</sup> When Comber went to York to preach the sermon referred to he was pressed by his diocesan to accept and was installed on 16th July. About that time Dr. Denis Granville, Archdeacon of Durham, began a correspondence with him and they soon became friends. Comber was anxious for a Durham prebend. Freschville and Comber both wrote to Archbishop Sancroft. Granville wrote to his brother, the Earl of Bath, for his help; he was anxious, he said, to obtain the support in Durham of steady and thorough-paced churchmen. Bishop Crewe had, however, already promised several vacancies, and the King, applied to by Danby, said he had promised not to interfere with the Durham cathedral patronage. The Princess Anne was approached, and Sir Hugh Cholmley sought help from Compton, Bishop of London, but all in vain. The whole affair throws an unpleasant light on the methods of seeking promotion.

In April 1682, at Compton's invitation, Comber set off for town, but the floods were out and he narrowly escaped drowning at Doncaster. He waited three days, but as the waters showed no sign of abatement he returned to York, where his daughter Alice was lying ill.<sup>2</sup> When she was better he set out with his young brother-in-law, Robert Thornton, for Oxford. Robert had been educated first by John Denton and then by the reverend John Burton at Sutton-on-the-Forest, and had entered Sidney Sussex College in April 1680, where his tutor, the reverend James Johnson, one of the fellows, spoke highly of his abilities. He now was migrating to Oxford, and was entered at University College under the tutorship of Mr. Hugh Todd.<sup>3</sup> Having seen him settled there, Comber

<sup>1</sup> George Tully. Queen's College, Oxford. B.A. 1674-5, M.A. 1678. Fellow 1679-1682. Chaplain to Archbishop Sterne, Preb. and Sub-Dean of York 1680. Rector of Gateshead 1691. Died 1695. He was suspended by the Dean and Chapter for disloyalty to James II during the troubles of 1687 and 1688. See Wood's *Life and Times*, Oxford Historical Society, III, 186.

<sup>2</sup> The *Memoirs* say that she was at a boarding-school there, but at this date she was only a year old.

<sup>3</sup> Hugh Todd. Scholar of Queen's College, Oxford. B.A. 1677. Fellow 1678, M.A. 1679, D.D. 1693. Vicar of Kirkland 1684-5. Vicar of Stanwix and Canon of Carlisle 1685. Rector of Arthuret 1688. Vicar of St. Andrew's, Penrith, 1699. He collected much information for a history of the County of Cumberland and left the MSS. to Queen's College. A great deal of this material has been published in modern times under the editorship of the late Chancellor Ferguson of Carlisle. Todd died in 1728.

went on to the Bishop of London, who offered him the living of St. Mary Woolnoth and a lectureship, together worth £300 a year. Archbishop Sancroft urged him to accept, but he declined, partly perhaps, because his wife disliked town life. Compton took him to Windsor, where he had an interview with Princess Anne, who made him one of her chaplains, and before returning north he preached at Whitehall.

In February 1682 Dr. Gilbert Burnet published a *History of the Rights of Princes in disposing of Ecclesiastical Benefices and Church Lands*. It combined praise of Louis XIV with pity for the French Protestants, and it threw on the Jesuits the blame for the troubles in England. "As usual his inaccuracy of detail provoked the onslaught of precise scholars, while the Erastian tenets of the book and the strictures on the clergy involved him in a long polemic correspondence with the learned Comber."<sup>1</sup> Comber wrote privately to Burnet pointing out a number of mistakes. In a second letter he said: "It takes off my wonder at divers passages in your last letter in that you tell me you had prepared the heads of your answer to my letter and papers the day after you received them. From whence it seems you resolved what kind of reply to make, before it was possible for you to search and compare half the quotations in those queries. This makes me more patiently to bear the censure you pass upon me, of reading my authors carelessly, and your book by halves. And this gives me occasion to suppose you had read my queries in that manner." He accused Burnet of definite misquotations or misreadings of his authors, especially De Marca.<sup>2</sup> As Burnet refused to acknowledge any mistakes, Comber published in 1682, *Animadversions on Dr. Burnet's History of the Rights of Princes*. He said he was very loath to believe that the doctor should directly design to expose the revenues, rights or persons of those of his own order to injury or contempt in such an age as that was, and was willing enough to believe the piece was done in haste without consulting the consequences the Church's enemies would draw from that discourse. In a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury in July

<sup>1</sup> Clarke and Foxcroft, *Life of Gilbert Burnet*, Cambridge, 1907, p. 182.

<sup>2</sup> Pierre de Marca, Bishop of Conserans, Archbishop (1) of Toulouse (2) of Paris. *De Concordia Sacerdotii et Imperii, sive de Libertatibus Eccles Gall.* There was an edition of this published at Frankfort in 1708. His *Historia de Bearn* was published in 1640. He died 1662.

of that year, Comber said that he had found that Burnet in his book had reflected severely on the persons and interests of the clergy. In perusing the work he had jotted down marginal notes and corrections and had been persuaded by a friend to print these. The *Memoirs* say that Comber wrote the *Animadversions* and sent the manuscript to Dr. Lake,<sup>1</sup> afterwards Bishop of Chichester, who sent it to the press after showing it to several of Burnet's friends.<sup>2</sup> Burnet put out "a lofty and scornful reply, without owning his mistakes or excusing his reflections, but undertaking to justify all he had said." So Comber had drawn up a further answer which he submitted to the archbishop's censure, being quite prepared, if the latter thought fit, to consign it to the flames, or to keep it awhile to see if his opponent offered any new provocation. "I would not be the instrument of drawing a man of great parts and fierce temper to seek to repair his credit by justifying his very errors and by renewed reflections on the clergy." Dr. George Hickes<sup>3</sup> wrote to Comber on 15th July and said he had seen Burnet's reply to the *Animadversions*. It was lying in manuscript in Chiswell's shop,<sup>4</sup> and was a most malicious reply.

The Bishop of St. Asaph<sup>5</sup> wrote to Comber regretting the whole controversy as likely to do much harm. He did not like the general tone of the *Animadversions*. He held no brief for Burnet's mistakes, or his trying temper, or his attacks on the clergy, but the writer should not have accused his opponent of dishonesty in the use of his references. Burnet was bound to clear himself of a charge like that. He urged that the controversy should be laid aside for a time: he meant till tempers cooled. Lloyd told Burnet that the author had intended to show him the *Animadversions* before they were printed, but put them into the hands of another person, who printed them without his knowledge. Sancroft, who expressed a great regard for Comber and a very different feeling for Burnet, said that Burnet

<sup>1</sup> Dr. John Lake. Vicar of Leeds 1661. Preb. York 1670. Archdeacon of Cleveland 1680. Bishop of Sodor and Man 1683; Bristol 1684; Chichester 1685-89.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, pp. 393-4.

<sup>3</sup> Geo. Hickes, 1642-1715. Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, 1664. Vicar All Hallows, Barking, 1680. Dean of Worcester 1683. Deprived 1690. Non-juring Bishop of Thetford.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Chiswell. Publisher to the Royal Society at the Two Angels and Crown, Little Britain, and later at the Rose and Crown in St. Paul's Churchyard.

<sup>5</sup> William Lloyd, Bishop of St. Asaph, 1680-92; Lichfield 1692-9; Worcester 1700-17.

governed the Bishop of St. Asaph. He wished that Comber, for the sake of the Church, would write an answer to Burnet, written without heat and with caution, and promised that he himself and the Bishop of London would look over the answer, provided that Dr. Cave<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Hickes first examined and approved of it. The Bishop of London also wished an answer to be written. Both he and Cave hoped that Comber would not write angrily. Hickes said: "As for the Bishop of St. Asaph, you must expect no equal dealing from him. I know he will discourage you all he can, and he will never be brought to think ill of Dr. Burnet and will maintain him to his utmost power."<sup>2</sup> Comber told the archbishop that he had already heard Burnet's arguments used against the Church. Cave and Hickes both approved of a *Short Reply*, which Comber wrote and submitted to Sancroft and Compton. Morice,<sup>3</sup> the archbishop's chaplain, approved. Hickes and Cave corrected a few slips in it, but in the end Comber begged the archbishop to excuse him from writing a complete answer to Burnet, and perhaps from printing the *Short Reply* which he enclosed for the archbishop's perusal, together with a paper on the election of bishops. He also sent a copy of his reply to Compton for his consideration, and in his letter regretted that the Bishop of St. Asaph should be concerned for one "who furnishes atheists and dissenters with stones to throw at religion itself." Hickes wrote to Comber saying that however much the archbishop liked the reply he would never consent to the author saying that it was printed with his approbation. This was due to the archbishop's natural timidity, moreover Morice, to whom Sancroft had committed the paper, having no time for it himself, was a friend of Bishop Lloyd. Hickes had seen an answer by Burnet, addressed "to the honoured advertor," which showed a friendly spirit. Finally the matter was settled this way. One of the archiepiscopal chaplains had undertaken to write on the subject of

<sup>1</sup> William Cave, 1637-1713. St. John's College, Cambridge. D.D. 1672. Vicar of Islington 1662-89; Rector of Ryton 1676-79; All Hallows the Great 1679-80; Canon of Windsor 1684; Vicar of Isleworth 1690. Author of *Primitive Christianity* and other historical works.

<sup>2</sup> Hickes to Comber, 17th August 1683.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Morice, or Maurice. Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. B.A. 1668, M.A. 1671, D.D. 1683. Chaplain to Sir Leoline Jenkins. Chaplain to Archbishop of Canterbury 1680-91. Rector of Chevening and Newington. Lady Margaret Professor Oxford, 1691, and Preb. Worcester. Died 1691.

episcopal elections, and Comber would deal with Burnet in the forthcoming new edition of his work on tithes, in which he could answer Burnet's statements on that subject without referring to him by name. Burnet published *An Answer to the Animadversions on "The History of the rights of Princes"* before the year 1682 was out, and in it considerably moderated the tone in which the pamphlet was originally written. Comber published the second part of his *Historical Vindication of the Divine Right of Tithes* in 1685. In a dedication to the Archbishop of York, Comber said he chiefly wished to refute the calumny "that tithes were got by evil arts and employed to evil purposes." Though the work was in part an answer to Selden, and in part an answer to Burnet, the latter's name was not mentioned. For one thing Burnet was in disfavour at Court and was going abroad, and Comber was anxious not to say anything which would increase the odium against him. For another thing John Tillotson, Dean of Canterbury, had tried to make peace. Tillotson and Comber had long been friends. As far back as 1663 Tillotson had published a sermon "*On the Wisdom of Being Religious*," and Comber had a copy which Tillotson himself had inscribed *Ex dono authoris*. He dedicated to the dean his *Discourse on the Offices of Baptism, Confirmation and Catechism*, first published in 1675, "for it will contribute to their reputation to be ushered in with so worthy a name and add to the author's character to be reckoned among the number of your friends."

Comber's domestic life through 1683 was marked by several events. One was the death of his relative by marriage, Christopher Danby,<sup>1</sup> caused by a fall from his horse, in the June of that year. The elder Christopher, the uncle of the deceased man, was now the heir. He seems to have been weak in his wits, so his son Abstrupus was allowed to take the title to the property which was resigned by his father, who seems to have been living more or less on Mrs. Thornton's charity. On 24th August Mrs. Comber gave birth to

<sup>1</sup> Sir Thos. Danby, Kt., of Thorp Perow and Masham, married Catherine, eldest daughter of Christopher Wandesford of Kirklington and sister of Mrs. Thornton. Among his children were his eldest son Thomas, and his fourth son Christopher who died 1689. Thomas had a son Christopher, Christopher had a son Abstrupus. It is the Christopher, son of Thomas, who is mentioned here. Sir Abstrupus Danby knighted 1691. M.P. for Aldborough 1699. Died at Masham in 1727. Mrs. Thornton remembered him in her will. See *Yorksh. Arch. Journal*, xxxvi, pp. 143, 155.

twin daughters, who died immediately, leaving the mother's life greatly endangered for a time. In December the marriage took place of Catherine Thornton, Mrs. Comber's sister, to the reverend Thomas Purchas.<sup>1</sup>

A boy from Thornton school was setting out on a distinguished career at this time, which must have afforded great pleasure to Comber, to whom Clavell the publisher wrote this year and spoke very highly of this young man, by name John Leng. He was now at St. Catherine's, Cambridge, and Clavell had lent him books which he used and faithfully returned. We read of two letters<sup>2</sup> written from Leng to Comber, thanking him for all his kindness. He wrote him a Latin epistle from Cambridge in August 1684 further expressing his gratitude, and congratulating him on his *Short Discourses on the Book of Common Prayer*. Leng ultimately became Bishop of Norwich, which see he occupied from 1723-27.

Early in 1683 Sir Hugh Cholmley interviewed the Bishop of London on Comber's behalf and the bishop made him "a good offer," but nothing came of it. On 24th August, the see being vacant, the Commissioners, at Dolben's<sup>3</sup> request, offered him the precentorship of York minster, together with the prebend of Driffield,<sup>4</sup> both vacant by the death of Dr. Robert Soresby. Dolben had mentioned this to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was sure Comber would not accept because he knew of his own intention to provide for him in the southern province. Some enquiry seems to have been made about this time concerning the possibility of a prebend at Windsor, Eton or Westminster. Dolben, however, promised to be his friend if he would stay in the north, and urged him to accept, which he did, and was installed on 23rd October. Next year he removed to York and began his first residence on 4th February.

On 27th March 1683 Granville, who was working to persuade

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Purchas, Christ's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1678, M.A. 1681. His family lived at Langton, Richmond. He had been tutor of Catherine's brother Robert. Rector of Langton-on-Swale 1682-92. See a letter from him to Comber in *Mrs. Thornton*, p. 301. Rector of Kirkby Wiske 1692-96. Died 1696.

<sup>2</sup> 22nd December 1683 and 5th January 1684. Now lost. *Memoirs*, p. 191.

<sup>3</sup> Sterne had died on 18th June and Comber had "helped to carry him to his grave." John Dolben, 1624-86. Christ Church, Oxford. Dean of Westminster 1662-83. Bishop of Rochester 1666-83. Archbishop of York July 1683.

<sup>4</sup> It had been attached to the Precentorship about 1485.

cathedral authorities to establish a weekly celebration of the Holy Communion, wrote to Comber and told him that his writings on the Prayer Book had great influence in many quarters, and that when the folio edition came out he intended to present it to the King. Comber was in general agreement with Granville, but was not very active in the matter, but, whether by his influence or not, the archbishop issued orders for a weekly celebration in York minister, and it was begun on 26th April 1685.

In April 1684 Joseph Lane enquired whether, in the event of the deanery of Carlisle becoming vacant, Comber would accept it if it were offered him. It was not a lucrative position, and acceptance would have entailed the resignation of one at least of his livings. We do not know what answer he gave, neither indeed do we know how Lane became concerned in the matter, but nothing more is heard about it. The precentor of York was patron of the living of Oddington in Gloucestershire, worth £200 a year, and about this time he presented it to Dr. Barnabas Long,<sup>1</sup> who had been very kind to Robert Thornton and wished to resign his fellowship at Magdalen in his favour, saying that he was the best of the possible candidates. Long accepted the benefice and resigned his fellowship during his last illness, dying in the summer of 1685.

In 1684 the precentor was instrumental in settling a civic quarrel. The Lord Mayor of York had been accustomed to a certain seat in the chancel of the minster, a seat which, according to the dean, belonged by right to one of the archdeacons. Because of this claim the mayor refused to attend the minster services. Comber asked Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys to arbitrate. He heard the whole case and assigned to the lord mayor a vacant seat on the south side of the choir. Comber became that same year a justice of the peace for the liberty of St. Peter in York. With the encouragement of the archbishop he introduced a practice, which he had begun at Stonegrave, of gathering the local clergy together for the mutual study of divinity. He also published his *Short Discourses on the Whole Common Prayer*, a volume of 463 pages, dedicated to Princess Anne. In the dedicatory address he praised the King for educating her in the Protestant religion. The work was a doctrinal and explanatory

<sup>1</sup> Barnabas Long. D.D. Fellow of Magdalen, Oxford. Preb. York 1681. Archdeacon of Cleveland 1682. Died 1685.

commentary on the Prayer Book, and in some respects an epitome of his larger work. The frontispiece represented a kneeling priest in a surplice and hood, offering on a Jewish altar a burning heart to the Shekinah, while angels and cherubs gaze from above: a curious mixture of Christianity, Judaism and heathenism, which was popular in the seventeenth century.

On 30th November 1684 Comber's son William was born and was baptized at Stonegrave on 4th December by the reverend Charles Man, the godparents being Sir Edward Blackett,<sup>1</sup> Dr. George Hickes and Mrs. Thornton. William was educated under the rev. Joseph Midgeley<sup>2</sup> at Thirsk, and became a commoner at Lincoln College, Oxford, but his health broke down and he died of consumption at Ouseburn and was buried in the sanctuary of Stonegrave church, where there is a brass plate to his memory.

On the day of William's baptism Granville wrote to say that he had been made Dean of Durham, and that his nephew, Sir George Wheler,<sup>3</sup> had been given the prebend vacant by his promotion. He had given in Comber's name for a prebend, but it seemed at Durham that no Cambridge man would have a chance if there were an Oxford candidate, and especially if he belonged to Lincoln College.<sup>4</sup> There was some complaint that neither of the archbishops had done anything for him on this vacancy, but as the Durham prebends were in the gift of the bishop, the two archbishops could at the most only recommend. There is no doubt that Comber was very disappointed.

On 18th January 1685 Archbishop Dolben held a visitation of the chapter of York. There was always a dispute about this, and a protestation, at least *pro forma*, against the archbishop's claim to jurisdiction, but on this occasion the precentor used a moderating influence, prevailing upon the chapter to do such things as the arch-

<sup>1</sup> Sir Edward Blackett. Second Baronet. M.P. for Ripon 1689-90, for Northumberland 1690-1700. Sometime mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne. Purchased Newby Park, Yorkshire. Married Mary, daughter of Sir John Yorke. Died 1718. A monument to him in Ripon Minster.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Midgeley. Ripon Grammar School and Christ's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1675, M.A. 1678. Deacon 1678. Priest 1682. Vicar of Thirsk 1682-1704. Died 1704.

<sup>3</sup> Sir George Wheler. Knight. Lincoln College, Oxford. Author of a folio *A Journey into Greece* and other works. Vicar of Basingstoke 1683. Preb. of Durham 1685.

<sup>4</sup> Nathaniel, third Baron Crewe (1633-1721), was Bishop of Oxford 1671-74, and of Durham 1674-1721. He was devoted to Lincoln College.

bishop requested, and upon the archbishop to make his injunctions conform to the chapter privileges. Dolben was not unmindful of him, and when Dr. Barnabas Long died on Palm Sunday 1685, he offered the archdeaconry of Cleveland to Comber. He begged to be excused and suggested the name of Dr. John Burton, rector of Sutton-on-the-Forest, and this appointment was made.<sup>1</sup> In August 1685 Comber presented to Oddington the reverend Thomas Purchas, who had married Catherine Thornton. Granville had wished to have Purchas as his curate in one of his Durham livings, but not succeeding he had appointed Sir George Wheler, who was thus on the spot for the prebend which later became his. Comber had in 1683 interviewed the Bishop of London on the subject of a Yorkshire living for Purchas, but without success. Now he presented him to Oddington with a condition that he should resign it as soon as Robert Thornton was of age to take it.

Comber was on his way to London when he heard of the death of Charles II, and was so affected that he was ill and unable to pursue his journey for a time. He says that at this time his *Epitome of the Commentary on the Common Prayer* was published. If he is referring to the *Discourses*, his memory had failed him, for they were published the previous summer. We know of no other epitome.

He wrote that year, *Observations on the Breviary of Salisbury*, an attack on the edition published at Paris in 1577. The French clergy in 1685 laid before Louis XIV a series of complaints against the Protestants of France, and Comber wrote *Remarks on the Account and Petition of the French Clergy*, in which he endeavoured to show that it was the Catholics who were the calumniators and not the Protestants. Neither of these papers were published. In October he published a *Discourse about Excommunication* in the same volume as the second part of his *Historical Vindication of the Divine Right of Tithes*. Maintaining the divine right of the Church to excommunicate, he admitted that excommunication had fallen into disrepute, partly by the schism, profaneness and unbelief of the times, and partly by its being sometimes used for frivolous reasons.

<sup>1</sup> Burton had been Robert Thornton's tutor before he went to college. Magdalene College, Cambridge. D.D. Deacon 1665-6. Priest 1667. Vicar of Swine 1668-70. Vicar of Sutton-on-the-Forest 1669-90 and Vicar of Wigginton 1677. Preb. of York 1677. Archdeacon of Cleveland 1685. Died 1700.

He quoted St. Ambrose in favour of passive obedience, but says its exercise, as to circumstances, depends on the prince.

On 12th February 1686 the precentor's youngest daughter, Mary, was born, and was baptized at Stonegrave on the 16th, her godparents being the rev. Tobias Conyers,<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Denton and Mrs. Thornton. She married at Ouseburn,<sup>2</sup> on 12th June 1705, the rev. Thomas Brooke.<sup>3</sup> Mary Brooke died on 28th July 1768, at the ripe age of eighty-three. On the 28th February 1686 Comber had the satisfaction of catechizing his eldest daughter Alice in Stonegrave church, and though not yet five years old she acquitted herself remarkably well. Some of the seventeenth-century children seem to have been very precocious. In June 1686 Sancroft offered him the living of All Hallows Barking, which had been vacated that year by Dr. Hickes, but he gratefully declined.

While busying himself with writing and teaching he was not unmindful of practical matters. At the request of the archbishop he reduced the minster library to order. During 1685 and the following year he disposed of many duplicates at a good price, and was able to spend £80 on new books and £30 on shelving, cataloguing and binding. He had a survey made of the minster with a view to necessary repairs, and in a petition to parliament asked that the sum needed, £3,500, might be raised by a tax on all coals delivered at Hull, Scarborough, Bridlington and York, but parliament was dissolved and the scheme had to be abandoned. He also made careful enquiries, through juries of the inhabitants, into the extent of glebe and titheable lands belonging to his two livings, and delivered a carefully drawn terrier into the ecclesiastical court at York. The Earl of Holderness<sup>4</sup> wished to renew the lease of Hornby which he held of the dean and chapter, and the precentor discovered that 120 acres of glebe belonging to the rectory had been lost through carelessness in time past, and Comber persuaded the earl to hand

<sup>1</sup> Tobias Conyers of Lastingham. Peterhouse, Cambridge. B.A. 1649-50, M.A. 1660. Minister at St. Ethelburga's, Bishopsgate. Ejected from St. Antholin's 1662. Rector of St. Martin's, Micklegate 1662-87, Kirby Misperton 1668-70. Preb. York 1670-87. Rector of Methley 1676-87. Died 23rd March 1687, aged 58. His monument is in St. Helen's, York.

<sup>2</sup> Little Ouseburn was appropriated to the precentor.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Brooke. M.A. Christ's, Cambridge. Of Fieldhead and Dodworth, co. York. For thirty-three years rector of Richmond. He died in 1739, aged 70 years.

<sup>4</sup> Conyers D'Arcy. First Earl of Holderness. Created 1682. Died 1689.

over a similar amount of good land in lieu of the glebe. This was in 1686. He also, with the assistance of the Bishop of Ely, persuaded the Earl of Rochester<sup>1</sup> to restore to the chapter some land in Yorkshire with arrears of rent. This land had been given in 1626 by the Duke of Buckingham in exchange for York Place in London.

As everyone knows, James II, after his brother's death, published two papers, said to have been written by Charles II himself, setting forth reasons for the acceptance of the claims of the Church of Rome. He also published another paper in which his first wife Anne Hyde explained why she had joined the Church of Rome.<sup>2</sup> A great pamphlet controversy at once arose. Comber wrote some "Animadversions" on all three documents, but there seems no record of the publication of these, but in 1686 he published anonymously: *The Plausible Arguments of a Romish Priest answered by an English Protestant*. In the form of a dialogue it dealt with the Roman Catholic argument from Scripture and was followed in the next year by: *The Plausible Arguments of a Romish Priest from Antiquity*. He also produced a fourth edition of his *Friendly and Seasonable Advice*. This paper was attacked by one of the Catholic controversialists in a pamphlet directed chiefly against Sherlock's *Preservative against Popery*.<sup>3</sup> The writer said that the *Advice* was first put out by Dr. Comber at the time of the Popish Plot, when whatever was said against the Roman Catholics was greedily accepted. Comber said that there was a pirated edition of the *Advice* to which the editor had put Comber's name admittedly as a guess, as his work had been published anonymously in 1674, not 1678, and that there were further editions in 1674 and 1677.<sup>4</sup> He had not published an edition in 1678 because he felt the Roman Catholics had enough to endure already. In 1687 the precentor published three other pamphlets. The first he had been stirred to write by the frequency of duels amongst the gentlemen and officers at York. It was an historical account of duels from early times, and

<sup>1</sup> Laurence Hyde, 1641-1711. First Earl of Rochester 1681. Died 1711.

<sup>2</sup> Copies of two papers written by the late King Charles II of blessed memory: as also a Copy of a paper written by the late Duchess of York. Folio and 4to., pp. 14. London, 1686.

<sup>3</sup> Two parts 1689.

<sup>4</sup> The author's name was first published in 1677.

was called *A Discourse on Duels*. The second was *A Discourse concerning the Daily Frequenting of the Common Prayer*, in which he urged the necessity of daily devotions and answered the objection of dissenters that forms of prayer are a hindrance of spiritual development and become nauseous by daily use. The third was *Frequent and Fervent Prayers*. The year 1688 saw also a good deal of literary activity. He issued the second part of his *Answer to the Plausible Arguments from Antiquity*. His controversial writings carried weight for many years. On 11th March 1735 the first Earl of Egmont attended the anniversary meeting of the Society for Propagating [sic] Christian Knowledge. "We agreed," he says, "with a printer to reprint two tracts of Dr. Comber's against popery, published by him in 1687 and 1688, one thousand of each for the use of the Society, and he obliged himself to print two thousand copies more at threepence each. We ordered the texts quoted by Dr. Comber should in this edition be printed at large, and that a circular note should be sent to the London clergy to know what number each of them might want for their parishes to be given them gratis."<sup>1</sup> In August 1688, stirred by what he considered popish idolatry, Comber published *A Discourse concerning the Second Council of Nice*.<sup>2</sup> He discussed the occasion and proceedings of the Council, the character of the persons who defended images, and then assailed their practices on grounds of Scripture, history and tradition. He denied the authority and credit of the Council, and asserted that the Roman Church had acted inconsistently with its decrees. He complained that by royal example and encouragement image worship was being practised all over the kingdom.

In May 1687 he went to London with Denis Granville. He preached before the Society of Yorkshiresmen in Bow Church on 16th June, and after their dinner in Merchant Taylors' Hall he urged them not to sign addresses to the King thanking him for his Declaration of Indulgence. In York he opposed a resolution that the chapter of the minster should send such an address to James, "knowing the design was to encourage him to go on oppressing the Church by flattery and a vile compliance." In the end only Dean Wickham signed. In the *Memoirs* is a long extract from a letter of 23rd

<sup>1</sup> Hist. MSS. Com. *Diary of the first Earl of Egmont*, II, p. 159.

<sup>2</sup> Held at Nicæa in 787 to consider the Iconoclast Controversy.

October 1687 from Dr. Matthew Hutton,<sup>1</sup> giving a full account of the proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Commission at Magdalen College.<sup>2</sup> Comber heard the story "with amazement." Two ladies of Oswaldkirk, a Mrs. Moore<sup>3</sup> and a Mrs. Northcliffe, who were inclining towards Rome, were turned back by a paper of *Considerations on the errors of Popery*, which Comber wrote for them.

When King James issued his second Declaration of Indulgence, Comber held a meeting of clergy at his house in York, at which those present decided not to read the Declaration, but to distribute widely a printed pamphlet against signing. What this pamphlet was we do not know. It may have been the famous *Letter to a Dissenter*,<sup>4</sup> but there were many pamphlets on the same subject. On the 24th August 1688 Sir Walter Vavasour<sup>5</sup> and Mr. Middleton,<sup>6</sup> as justices of the peace, put the well-known three questions to the important people of York. When they were put to the precentor he replied :

- (1) I am incapable of my being elected a member of parliament by reason of my being in Holy Orders.
- (2) If at any time I shall concern myself in election of parliament men, it shall be for such persons as I have reason to believe are truly loyal to his Majesty, and entirely faithful to the interest of the government in Church and State as now by law established.
- (3) I always did, and by the grace of God will live peaceably with all men, and as my sacred office obliges me.<sup>7</sup>

He was promptly put out of the commission of the peace and, in spite of threats from the dean, he refused to attend a meeting of the

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Hutton, 1640-1711. Son of Richard Hutton of Poppleton. D.D. and Fellow, Brasenose, Oxford. Married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Burgoyné. Rector of Aynhoe, Northants, and of Croughton.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, pp. 243-50.

<sup>3</sup> The first wife of William Moore, esq., of Oswaldkirk.

<sup>4</sup> *A Letter to a Dissenter* upon the occasion of His Majesty's late Gracious Declaration of Indulgence. By Lord Halifax. London, 1687. It had a great sale.

<sup>5</sup> Sir Walter Vavasour of Hazlewood, near Tadcaster. Third Baronet.

<sup>6</sup> John Middleton of Stockeld. He was one of those who were accused of being concerned in the Popish Plot.

<sup>7</sup> *Yorkshire Arch. Journal*, V, 447.

chapter on 25th September to suspend Mr. Lawson<sup>1</sup> at the command of the High Commission Court. Similarly in October he opposed the High Commission Court in the case of Mr. Briggs,<sup>2</sup> who had been suspended without even his defence being heard. With his friend Sir John Kaye,<sup>3</sup> he attended a meeting in York of more than a thousand clergy, gentry and freeholders, which drew up a petition to the King for a free parliament. This petition was signed at the precentor's house.

Comber was a great supporter of Danby and helped him to gain York. Among some of Danby's memoranda is a reference to Comber as an intermediary for letters in case the rising should fail.<sup>4</sup> "To d'Comber to send over such letters as should come directed to his house for Mr. William Austin." Comber himself had an invitation from Princess Mary to take refuge with her in Holland. He went out of York to Stonegrave a few days before the city was seized by the northern gentry. A *congé d'élire* had, so he heard, been sent to the chapter to elect Dr. Smith to the primacy, and he resolved not to be present at the chapter meeting, and if necessary to go to Holland. This Dr. James Smith was president of Douay College in 1680, was one of the four vicars apostolic appointed over England in 1687, and was made Bishop of Calliopolis *in partibus* in 1688 and placed in charge of the northern vicariate. He appeared in York in full pontificals with a number of his clergy,<sup>5</sup> and he bore a pastoral staff which had been presented to him by Catherine of Braganza. Danby rushed forward and snatched it from him, and

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lawson. Christopher Lawson. B.A., Ox. 1661. M.A. 1664. B.D., Camb. Deacon 1664. Priest 1665. Vicar of Bakewell 1668. Gargrave 1673-1717. Died 30th Oct. 1717. In his will he bequeathed to his wife some Staffordshire iron mines which had been unprofitable. The chapter were acting *sede vacante*.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Briggs. Magdalene College, Cambridge. B.A. 1657-8. M.A. 1661. Curate of Swillington 1659. Vicar of Kirkburton 1662-1727. When James II issued his first Declaration of Indulgence in April 1687, Briggs preached against it on the two Sundays 12th and 19th April. Some of his parishioners delated him to Mr. Justice Allibone, then on the northern circuit. He ordered their affidavits to be sent to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. They ordered his suspension from preaching on pain of deprivation, and the suspension was read and published in the parish church of Kirkburton. He afterwards made his submission to the Commissioners.

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Kaye of Woodsome. Second Baronet. D.L. In 1679 put up for M.P. for York and withdrew. In 1680 not elected. In 1685 elected with Lord Clifford.

<sup>4</sup> Brit. Mus. Add MSS. 28092. YAJ, xxix, p. 270.

<sup>5</sup> A report spread among the crowd that he was going to the minster to be enthroned. He was really going to the Roman Catholic chapel. No *congé d'élire* had been sent on his behalf to the minster authorities.

the following year gave it to the minster. After the Revolution Dr. Smith retired to Wycliffe, where he spent the rest of his life.

There had been no Archbishop of York for two years. Dolben died in April 1686. When the *congé d'élire* did come it was to bid them elect Thomas Lamplugh,<sup>1</sup> Bishop of Exeter, to the vacant archiepiscopal throne. As Comber was not in York his vote was not given, but he thoroughly approved.

The writ for proclaiming William and Mary arrived in York on Saturday night, 17th February 1689, and the precentor preached the next day to a very large congregation. He set off on Monday for London, where Anne presented him to the Queen. In the early part of 1689 the clergy were much troubled as to whether they could lawfully substitute William's name for that of James in the daily offices, and the rev. Martin Pinchbeck<sup>2</sup> of Butterwick in Lincolnshire wrote to him for advice, as did others. In consequence he produced two pamphlets: *A Modest Vindication of the Protestants of England who joined with the Prince of Orange*, and *A Discourse showing that it is lawful and our Duty to swear Allegiance to King William*. The former pamphlet bore no author's name, the latter was described as written "By a Divine in the North." Comber has also had ascribed to him *A Letter to a Bishop Concerning the Present Settlement and the New Oaths*, which was published by Clavell in 1689. Though a manuscript copy in Comber's handwriting still exists,<sup>3</sup> he denies in his autobiography that the tract is his work and the author is believed to be Dr. Edward Gee.<sup>4</sup> There was a volume published in 1673 entitled "*Roman Forgeries*, or a true Account of false Records, discovering the Impostures and counterfeit Antiquities of the Church of Rome." It was written by Thomas Traherne, but the history went no further than the first Nicene Council. Comber took up the subject, and in 1689 published a volume: *Roman Forgeries in the Councils during the First Four Centuries*, which he dedicated to the new archbishop of York.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Lamplugh. Bishop of Exeter 1676-88. Archbishop of York 1688-91.

<sup>2</sup> Martin Pinchbeck. Emmanuel College, Cambridge. B.A. 1665, M.A. 1672. Deacon 1668. Priest 1670. Master of the Free School at Butterwick, founded by his uncle Anthony in 1665.

<sup>3</sup> It is in the possession of Mr. R. H. J. Comber.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Gee, 1657-1730. M.A. St. John's, Cambridge. Chaplain to the King and Queen. Rector of St. Edward's, Lombard Street, and St. Benet's, Paul's Wharf. Preb. Westminster and incumbent of St. Margaret's 1701. Dean of Lincoln 1722.

Comber's domestic life during the revolutionary years was not without its annoyances. He had obtained for his elder brother James a lucrative situation in the Post Office. In 1686 the precentor engaged in a controversy with Bishop Cartwright<sup>1</sup> of Chester on the subject of addresses of thanks to the King. Cartwright, we are told, in revenge, tried to get James dismissed, but being unable to prove his charges against him, had to retract his accusations in the presence of three or four lords.<sup>2</sup> James Comber died in 1706. He had lost his wife before that date. In his will he styles himself "Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London." His cousin Esther, to whom he was residuary legatee, calls him an "upholder," that is, an undertaker. In 1687 Thomas Comber's brother-in-law, Robert Thornton, had left college and had since been ordained priest, upon which Comber presented him to the living of Oddington, which Purchas now resigned in his favour. But Robert was a wayward young man, and before the year was out resigned the living and induced his brother-in-law to present one of his friends, Robert Parsons,<sup>3</sup> to it. Comber in the uncertain times of 1688, in order to provide a home for his wife and children, should he be forced to resign, took a lease of some property at Ouseburn, where he restored the house belonging to it. His youngest son Thomas was born on 26th November 1688 and christened at Stonegrave by Charles Man on 4th December, his godparents being Lord Danby, Thomas Yorke<sup>4</sup> of Richmond, and Mary Wandesford,<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Thornton's sister. Thomas was educated under Dr. Johnson,<sup>6</sup> a future prebendary of Durham, then under Joseph Midgeley at Thirsk and at the free school at Ripon. He entered Lincoln College, Oxford, but left through ill-health. He was twice married, succeeding as heir to his brother William, lived at East Newton, where he was a justice

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Cartwright. Queen's College, Oxford. Vicar of Walthamstow. Preb. of St. Paul's. Preb. of Durham 1672. Dean of Ripon 1675. Bishop of Chester 1686-89. Died 1689.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, p. 239.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Parsons. University College, Oxford. B.A. 1667, M.A. 1670. Rector of Shabbington 1673. Canon of Llandaff 1681. Rector of Waddesdon, Bucks, 1682. Rector of Oddington 1688. Archdeacon of Gloucester 1703. Died 1714.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Yorke. Son of Sir John Yorke of Gowthorpe and Richmond. M.P. for Richmond 1680. Died 1716.

<sup>5</sup> Mary Wandesford, 1655-1726. Foundress of the Old Maids' Hospital at York.

<sup>6</sup> John Johnson. Curate of Middleton Tyas 1700. D.C.L. Brasenose, Oxford, 1726. Rector of Hurworth 1714-61. Preb. Durham 1725-61.

of the peace and a deputy-lieutenant, and died 12th November 1765.

In May 1689 there was published a work by the late David Clarkson,<sup>1</sup> *A Discourse Concerning Liturgies*. Comber replied to this work with *A Scholastical History of the Primitive and General Use of Liturgies*. This was published in two parts in 1690. Six months later, Samuel Bold,<sup>2</sup> a Dorsetshire vicar of Nonconformist views, entered into the dispute with *An Examination of Dr. Comber's Scholastical History*. He agreed that there was no evidence that the early Christians were confined to the use of set liturgies: on the contrary, they were able to use their own words. He went very near to claiming that there were no liturgies at all in the first three centuries. He fell foul of some of Comber's forced interpretations of patristic quotations, but he himself was equally guilty of the same fault. He confined himself to the liturgical history of the first three centuries and Comber complained that his critic had only referred to 76 pages out of 600, but in 1691 Bold wrote *A Second Examination* dealing with the fourth century. Here he was forced to admit the existence of liturgies, but he demanded proof that the clergy were obliged to use them. Bold knew very little about liturgies, but at that time very few people did. Comber gave his final answer in *The Examiner Briefly Examined*, which appeared in 1691. Dr. Beveridge<sup>3</sup> read the reply before publication and wrote to congratulate Comber upon it. Bold in his first *Examination* had published *An Epistle* which spoke in high praise of himself. Comber said: "I will not examine whether the author writ his own character publicly, under another name, or whether it was writ by a friend." The writer of the *Epistle* had said that Bold was a conformist. "'Twas well he told us," said Comber, "for nothing in the book discovers it." Bold had promised a further contribution to the debate, but Comber replied: "I declare beforehand I will not give myself nor the world the trouble of answering, since this loose way of 'examining' will neither do my cause any harm, nor

<sup>1</sup> David Clarkson. B.D. Sometime fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. "Ejected" at the Restoration. Died 1687. See Palmer, *Nonconformists' Memorial*, III, p. 305.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Bold, 1649-1737. Vicar of Shapwick, Dorset, 1674-88; Steeple, Dorset, 1682-1723.

<sup>3</sup> William Beveridge, 1638-1708. St. John's, Cambridge, 1661. Vicar of Ealing 1662. St. Peter's Cornhill, 1681. Archdeacon Colchester. Preb. Canterbury. Bishop St. Asaph 1704-8.

his any good, among the impartial and truly judicious, and so I bid him farewell."

He was restored to the office of justice of the peace in 1689, and later on in the year had the joy of seeing his daughter Alice, not quite nine years old, confirmed by the Archbishop of York.

In 1690 the minster organ being in bad condition Comber tried, through the Bishop of London, to obtain from the King a disused organ at Whitehall. Failing in this, he asked the Archbishop of York to present one. Lamplugh had already paved the choir with marble and provided new rails and hangings for the altar, but he promised to pay half the cost. The precentor collected £200 within the next six months, and the archbishop gave another £200 as well as leaving a bequest for the fitting and casing and painting of it. Bernard Smith<sup>1</sup> built it, and it was ready within twelve months. In the same year Comber had the pleasure of seeing his relative by marriage, John Denton, come over at last to the Church of England. At Oswaldkirk, which living he had left under the Act of Uniformity, Tillotson<sup>2</sup> had preached his first sermon. Tillotson and he were great friends. Denton was ordained deacon in 1690 by the Bishop of Lincoln.<sup>3</sup> Later he became a prebendary of York, and he died in 1708 at the age of eighty-three.

Comber had found himself obliged to bring a lawsuit in Chancery against Sir Anthony Mayne,<sup>4</sup> who was one of the trustees of Lady Lumley's Charity at Thornton. This was a hospital for twelve poor people from the neighbourhood. Mayne had been bribed by his coachman to obtain for the latter some benefit under the charity. Several people at Sinnerington were backing him, and Comber's action was against them all. It took several years and cost him £40, but it was a blow for purity in the administration of charities. The result was in his favour, and Sir Anthony lost his membership of the board of trustees. Before he left York Comber obtained a decree to settle the charity in the hands of six or seven new trustees, gentry living near Thornton.

<sup>1</sup> Bernard Smith, originally Bernhardt Schmidt, 1630 to 1708, called Father Smith, built many of the great organs at that period.

<sup>2</sup> John Tillotson. Dean of St. Paul's, Archbishop of Canterbury 1691-4.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Thomas Barlow. Bishop of Lincoln 1675-1691.

<sup>4</sup> Anthony Mayne, son of John Mayne or Mayney. Created baronet 1641. The family came from Kent. G.E.C. *Complete Baronage*, II, 93. R. W. Jeffery, *Thornton-le-Dale*, 1931.

In April 1691, by the influence of Fauconberg, Tillotson and Danby, now Marquess of Caermarthen, the deanery of Durham was conferred on him, and he was instituted on 9th May 1691, and installed by Dr. Grey<sup>1</sup> on 15th June. Samuel Johnson,<sup>2</sup> or "Julian Johnson" as he was nicknamed, had been offered the deanery, but refused it as an inadequate reward for his sufferings for the Whig cause. He hoped at least for a bishopric. Comber now handed over Stonegrave to John Denton, together with the emoluments, though at Denton's request and with the consent of the archbishop, he kept the title of rector. He also kept Thornton. He promised to resign the precentorship at Martinmas, though as yet he had no house in Durham and there were great arrears due to him in York. Workmen were busy in the deanery, which had been left in a bad state of repair by Dean Sudbury,<sup>3</sup> and Sudbury's successor had been able to do but little to it. Comber arrived in Durham for his first residence in October, and borrowed Dr. Brevint's<sup>4</sup> house for nine months. He had not come to a bed of roses. Granville had fled to France at the Revolution, but he had never resigned. He expected to return when the King came back and treated his successor as a mere caretaker, but worse than that, one who had no business even to be caretaker. He wrote from Havre to Dr. Thomas Comber, "the present intruder into his deanery." Under the pseudonym of "John Thomas" he wrote in November 1692 directing him to pay any money due to him to John Turner, a London merchant, "and I promise you to allow whatever sum you shall so pay, whensoever I shall call you to account . . . for the moneys you have received during my absence."<sup>5</sup> He told Beveridge that Comber "loved my benefices better than he did my person." As far as we know Comber did not answer these letters.

In 1691 Lord Caermarthen obtained for Robert Thornton a Northamptonshire living worth £160 a year, but in order to be near

<sup>1</sup> Robert Grey, 1610-1704. Christ's College, Cambridge. D.D. 1652. Rector of Bishopwearmouth. Preb. Durham 1660-1704.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Johnson. Chaplain to Lord Russell, author of *Julian the Apostate* (1682). Degraded, pilloried and whipped for treasonable writing. Received pension from William III.

<sup>3</sup> John Sudbury. Dean of Durham 1662-84.

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Brevint, 1616-95. Educated at Saumur. Fellow Jesus, Oxford. Preb. Durham 1660-95. D.D., Oxford, 1663. Dean of Lincoln 1682-95.

<sup>5</sup> Granville, *Remains*, Surtees Soc. 37, p. xlvi.

Comber, Robert exchanged it for that of Boldon in the diocese of Durham, and was inducted on 5th September. He lived with Comber in Durham, but in the following year he caught cold while journeying to take his services, and died on 4th June 1692. Comber had just arranged a marriage for him with a lady whose marriage portion would have been £3,000. He was buried in the Chapel of the Nine Altars in Durham Cathedral, and his sister put up the tablet there to his memory. Long afterwards Comber was in correspondence with Hugh Todd, Thornton's old tutor at Magdalen, about his debts, and Mrs. Thornton, too, was heavily in debt for his education. As he was the last male heir, Comber and Purchas succeeded to the Thornton property by right of their wives. On 3rd August 1692 they settled an annuity on the old lady and divided the estates between them, Comber taking East Newton, but as they had also charged themselves with the debts, they and their wives had a poor inheritance. Purchas died in April 1697, leaving three sons and two daughters. His widow afterwards married Robert Danby of Northallerton.

In 1689 Lake, Bishop of Chichester, wrote angrily to Comber about an anonymous tract, *A Letter to a Bishop concerning the Present Settlement and the new Oaths*, which was printed in the June of that year. He thought the dean was the author. The latter replied, answering Lake's arguments but denying the authorship. Another letter followed on each side, but Lake's death at the end of August prevented further dispute. Comber next had trouble through Burnet's meddling. On the strength of the dean's promise to resign the precentorship, which he fully intended to do at Martinmas, Burnet had got the promise of it for his friend and fellow countrymen, Dr. Fall.<sup>1</sup> He now persuaded the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury that Comber had no intention of resigning. Some other meddler told the Queen that *A Defence of Pluralities*<sup>2</sup> was his work, whereas it was really the work of Henry Wharton. The Queen was angry, and a curt letter written by his

<sup>1</sup> James Fall, Principal University, Glasgow. Precentor of York, 1692. Archdeacon of Cleveland 1700. Buried in York Minster. Edited Leighton's *Works*. For his life see Glasgow Archaeological Soc., vol. VII.

<sup>2</sup> *A Defence of Pluralities or Holding two Benefices with Cure of Souls as now practised in the Church of England*. Printed for R. Clavell. March 1691. Henry Wharton, 1664-95, was of Caius, Cambridge, and chaplain to Sancroft. Author of *Anglia Sacra*.

chaplain and devoid of the usual friendliness came from the archbishop. Comber had only retained the title for a few months and had not touched the profits of the precentorship between Martinmas and the actual resignation. The Archbishop of York and Danby cleared his character and all ended well, but it is easy to understand why in writing to his archbishop he expressed a hope that amidst the various changes and promotions at this time they would "keep the Bishop of Salisbury<sup>1</sup> where he is." He believed that Burnet had acted out of a spirit of revenge, remembering the time when they had crossed swords before. In the same letter to the archbishop Comber expressed a hope that in the case of the advancement of Dr. John Montagu,<sup>2</sup> he himself might have the mastership of Sherburn Hospital, "a place within one mile from Durham, of about £300 per annum . . . where there is a very fine summer retirement for my family and it is the one and only thing in the world I am capable of wishing." The wish was not fulfilled.

Comber loyally supported the new régime. We find him writing to Caermarthen, the Lord President of the Council, about the lack of loyalty to King James in the north country, and complaining that the papists were going about armed and mounted. His great-grandson says he wrote a pamphlet: *The Pretences of the French Invasion examined for the Information of the People of England*, but this was really written by Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham. There was a fierce Jacobite pamphlet, written by Sir James Montgomery, entitled *Great Britain's Just Complaint*, in reply to which, at Tillotson's request, Comber wrote *The Protestant Mask taken off the Jesuited Englishman*, which he sent to the archbishop, who approved of it and published it without the author's sanction. Tillotson<sup>3</sup> it seems was not certain whether the dean had written it himself, or some friend of his had written it, but he wrote to say that the Queen was highly pleased with it and the zeal he showed in her service. Comber had been appointed Chaplain-in-ordinary to William and Mary in the previous August. *The Protestant Mask* is probably the work to which he refers when he says, *Responsum*

<sup>1</sup> Burnet was consecrated Bishop of Salisbury on 31st March 1689.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. John Montagu. Trinity College, Cambridge. D.D. 1686. Master of Sherburn Hospital 1680. Preb. Durham 1683. Master of Trinity College 1683. Dean of Durham 1699.

<sup>3</sup> Birch, *Life of Tillotson*, p. 394.

exscripsi ad libellum famosum contra Regem Guilielmum. Comber wrote a preface to the later editions of Dr. William King's *The State of the Protestants in Ireland*, 1692-3, and in it presented King James as the enemy of liberty. Authorship and controversy did not hinder him for doing his duty to the cathedral. Mr. William Wilkinson<sup>1</sup> of Durham had received the rents of some of the deanery estates during the interval between Granville's departure and Comber's arrival, affirming that Granville had mortgaged these to him. The dean, together with Archdeacon Booth<sup>2</sup> and Mr. Clayton,<sup>3</sup> commenced a suit against Wilkinson, but finally appointed Prebendary Eyre<sup>4</sup> and Mr. Ward,<sup>5</sup> vicar of Stokesley in Cleveland, as arbitrators, and though he had a just claim to a greater sum, he accepted £60 for peace sake. Granville had commenced an action against the executors of Dean Sudbury for the sum of £550 for dilapidations. Comber continued, or rather renewed, the suit, but at the request of the friends of Sudbury's widow he accepted £110. He disliked actions at law; he had to sue in the Exchequer in 1695 a widow named Atkinson, who refused to pay his tithes from Ouseburn. The Court found in his favour, but he was the loser by £20, besides costs running up to £40, while the defendant had to pay £120 in costs. He says the whole business might have been settled for £5 at the outset.

Comber thoroughly restored and repaired the deanery house at Durham. He pulled down some rooms on the north side, erected a building of eighteen yards long and eight broad, from the ground, containing four very good rooms and a staircase, and covered the whole with lead. He new-floored many rooms, repaired a long passage and the lesser and greater kitchens, whitened and glazed most of the house, new leaded and glazed a room seventeen yards

<sup>1</sup> For Wilkinson and Granville's business dealings with him see *Denis Granville I*, Surtees Soc., vol. xxxvii, *passim*.

<sup>2</sup> The Hon. Robert Booth. B.D. Christ Church, Oxford. Rector of Easington. Archdeacon of Durham 1691. Dean of Bristol 1708, where he died 1730.

<sup>3</sup> This was possibly Nathaniel Clayton, merchant of Newcastle, a zealous churchman and afterwards one of the promoters of the Society of the Sons of the Clergy in the diocese.

<sup>4</sup> Eyre, Rev. Samuel. Lincoln College, Oxford. D.D. Rector of Whitburn 1686. Preb. Durham 1690. Died 1694.

<sup>5</sup> Robert Ward. Christ's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1667-8, M.A. 1685, Rector of Slingsby 1668, Rector of Stokesley 1668-1723. Preb. York 1689-1723. Buried at Stokesley 1723.

long and seven broad, floored it and made it into a fine gallery with three good chambers in it. He also set the gardens in order and repaired all the out-houses, besides building two other rooms outside the house, one for a storehouse and one for a steward. It is not easy to locate all this. The part he rebuilt inside the house would seem to be the double storeyed passage on the north side leading from the prior's solarium. The great kitchen was, of course, the prior's, to which the long passage which he mentions leads. The gallery and chambers seem to be on the south-east side of the building. The outdoor rooms no longer exist. The wainscoting of the dining-room and the great room, and furniture for all the twenty-four rooms, cost Comber £600. Altogether he spent £1,500 on the deanery alone, and what with this and many other expenses, charities and hospitality, he could say towards the end of his life that upon the whole he had spent the entire income of the deanery ever since he enjoyed it and had not got £10 by it. He kept the income of one living, Thornton, worth £80 a year, and he spent several hundred pounds there in building the vicarage, erecting barns, stables and outhouses, and in purchasing land for an orchard. Moreover, as he could not live there he had to pay a curate. He concluded: "Had riches been my design I can prove that I might have been worth £4,000 more than I am now. He enclosed a hundred and thirty acres at Bear Park,<sup>1</sup> near Durham, and planted this ground with fifteen hundred ash-trees and five hundred oaks. He sunk a coal-pit there and lost £60 by it. In 1695 he made a vain attempt to find coal at East Newton. The cathedral bells being in a bad condition, he raised £300 by subscription in order to have new ones cast.

He busied himself in public affairs. In 1692 he was made a justice of the peace for Durham, and a little later became a commissioner for the land tax. He preached the assize sermon in 1692 and in 1694; as royal chaplain, he preached a sermon on Ps. cxxii. 6, which by the Queen's command he published, with the title: *The Reasons for Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem*. In 1696 the dean and chapter established in Durham a school for girls, where they might be taught spinning and reading, each girl to have a year's tuition, and both the bishop and the local magistrates were induced to contribute to the scheme.

<sup>1</sup> Anciently Beaurepaire, the summer dwelling of the priors of Durham.

He also continued his literary labours. At the end of 1694 he finished an epitome of his books on tithes, which he sent to the Archbishop of York, but it seems never to have been published. Next year he published his second volume on *Roman Forgeries*,<sup>1</sup> covering the ground from A.D. 400 to A.D. 553, and forming the third and fourth parts of the work. It was dedicated to Archbishop Sharp.<sup>2</sup> In 1696 appeared his *Discourses on the Offices for 5th November, 30th January and 29th May*, which he followed up in the following year with a *Discourse on the Forms and Manner of Making, Ordaining and Consecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons*. A sermon which he preached in Durham Cathedral on Ps. cxliv. 15 on the 2nd December 1696 was printed in the following year. The *Treatise on the Sacrament* which came from the press in 1699 was really a reprint of his *Companion to the Altar*. By the end of 1695 he had corrected and enlarged the whole of his commentaries on the Prayer Book, but did not print this new edition owing to the scarcity of paper, and it was not published till after his death.

We have a few more glimpses of his life as Dean of Durham. On 5th January 1695 he preached in the cathedral on the recent death of Queen Mary,<sup>3</sup> and on the day of her funeral, 5th March, he made a speech at the four o'clock prayers. In February 1696 he appeared at the York Convocation, both for himself and as proxy for the chapter, and protested that the chapter of Durham was exempt from the jurisdiction of York. In March Danby, now Duke of Leeds, presented him to the King, the first time he ever saw him. He preached twice in the royal chapel, but was taken dangerously ill before his time of attendance was up. He recovered in due course and returned to Durham in June. In the summer of that year, finding the bridge over the Wear a source of continual expense, the chapter replaced it by a stone one. In September Comber, with the help of Milner<sup>4</sup> the precentor, began to arrange the books in the

<sup>1</sup> In this he accuses the Roman Church of forging the decrees of the Councils, and especially attacks the Church History of Cardinal Cæsar Baronius (1538-1607).

<sup>2</sup> John Sharp, 1645-1714. Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields 1675. Dean of Norwich 1681. Dean of Canterbury 1689. Archbishop of York 1691-1714.

<sup>3</sup> She died of small-pox on 28th December 1694.

<sup>4</sup> John Milner, M.A. Peterhouse, Cambridge. Vicar of Croxdale 1675-81. Vicar of Billingham 1681. Vicar of Heighington 1685-1705. Preb. Durham 1675-1705; Sacrist 1681-9; Precentor 1689-1705.

chapter library, which had recently been largely rebuilt, and the value of the contents had been greatly increased by the purchase of a large collection of classical authors. He continued to act as a peacemaker. On 25th August the bishop made a visitation of the chapter and tempers rose high, but the dean acted as mediator and the differences were privately composed, though the visitation was entirely ineffectual. At the chapter audit in December he yielded his rights in two important matters rather than have strife. In April 1697 the chapter had the cistern of the fountain in the college new-cast, the pipes mended and the building covering it repaired. The bishop refused to contribute to this, and Comber, in a speech made about this time, answered two things which had been said about the chapter, that they had shown no gratitude to the bishop and that they had made a disrespectful demand for a contribution from him. Among other things the dean said that the fountain was useful to the bishop's castle. Now the castle had its own water supply, and perhaps he did not know that on a previous occasion when the castle water had run short the chapter had refused to allow the bishop to draw from their well. In another matter Comber discovered that through negligence certain lands at Croxdale and Stainforth had been nearly lost to the chapter. The leaseholders admitted that this was true, but said that the lands had long been looked upon as freehold. A careful survey was made, the boundaries marked out and the land restored to the rightful owners. This was in 1698. Comber agreed with Smith, the nephew of the previous organ builder, to do the necessary repairs to the organ.<sup>1</sup> He persuaded Mr. Morris,<sup>2</sup> vicar of Aldborough in Yorkshire, to give a collection of medals to the chapter library. At the audit in November he persuaded the chapter to subscribe £20 towards the cost of publication of Dr. Hickes' *Thesaurus of the Northern Languages*, "a stupendous monument of learning and industry," ultimately published at the Oxford Press between 1703 and 1705.<sup>3</sup> The chapter also contributed

<sup>1</sup> The organ in Durham Cathedral was built by Father Smith under agreement with the dean and chapter, dated 18th Aug. 1683. An oak case was erected by Bishop Crewe, whose arms are upon what remains of it at Durham.

<sup>2</sup> Edward Maurice, Morris or Marris—his name variously spelt—LL.B. Preb. of Ripon. Vicar of Aldborough 1677-1720. Antiquary. In Gibson's *Camden*, II, 375, a letter from him on Roman remains.

<sup>3</sup> Hickes gave a copy of the work to the chapter library with a grateful Latin inscription.

£20 to Dr. Bray's<sup>1</sup> scheme for purchasing books for the clergy who were going as missionaries to the Indians of North America.

In 1694 the dean purchased a lease at Ferry Hill as a further provision for his wife, in case he should die before her. Two years later he bought a small freehold estate at Nether Dunsford. Bishop Cosin had set aside £13 6s. 8d. out of a farm at Dunsford for the benefit of the poor, but the money had been for many years withheld by that bishop's trustees. Comber was now able to restore this money in accordance with the late bishop's intention. When Mr. Purchas died in 1697 he had to act as trustee for his widow's affairs. She made an unhappy second marriage,<sup>2</sup> much to the wrath of her father-in-law, and Comber did his best to make peace between them.

Comber's health seems to have declined from 1694 onwards. In September 1698 he paid a visit to Thornton to settle the charities there, and what at first was a severe cold resulted in an illness which lasted all the winter, and in 1699 it was seen that he was suffering from consumption. In November his daughter wrote to tell Mrs. Thornton that he was coming to East Newton, and on his arrival he said, "I am come to lay my bones near you and my other mother." Dr. Granville heard of his ill-health and wrote to him urging him in fear of death to give up the deanery. But he was past the fear of death when the letter came. He died on 25th November at the early age of fifty-five. He was buried in the choir of Stongrave church on the 30th, and his friend Charles Man preached the funeral sermon from Rom. xiv. 8, which text Comber himself had chosen. The parish register has a memorandum: "The Reverend Dr. Comber was buried in linnen. Complaint thereof was made to a Justice of the peace and the forfeiture paid according to the Act of Parliament."<sup>3</sup> A marble slab in the church bears a Latin inscription composed by Mr. Milner, minor canon of Durham, and a stained-glass window to his memory, illustrating the miracle of the loaves

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas Bray. Rector of Sheldon 1690. D.D. Magdalen, Oxford, 1696. Founder of Bray Libraries and one of the founders of the S.P.G.

<sup>2</sup> She married Robert Danby of Northallerton.

<sup>3</sup> The Act for Burying in Woollen, 1666, intended for the encouragement of the woollen trade, enacted that no person should be "buried in any shirt, shift, or sheet, other than should be made of wool only." In 1678 another Act obliged the clergy to enter in the register that an affidavit had been made certifying that the law had been obeyed.

and fishes, is in the vestry. Mrs. Comber spent several hundred pounds in funeral hangings in Durham cathedral.

In what was probably his last letter to Clavell, Comber told him that he had prepared "a most elaborate and useful explication of the Lord's Prayer, collected almost verbatim out of the Fathers, whose very words in Greek and Latin are cited at large in the margin." In the volumes on liturgies when reprinted he intended to make "an excursion briefly to chastise a busy fellow who had written *The Original of Cathedral Worship*."<sup>1</sup> In a postscript he added that he had augmented his pamphlet on frequent and fervent prayer, which was "a very saleable piece."

In appearance Comber was of middle height, with small regular features, light brown curling hair and blue eyes. He seems to have inspired affection in many friends, and his family seems to have been devoted to him. People wrote to him for advice in spiritual matters. Lady Martha Cary was one of these. He corresponded with learned men: Dr. Cave and Dr. Hickes on Church History, Beveridge and Edward Gee on ecclesiastical matters, and Matthew Hutton on the antiquities of York minster. Hutton for a time bought books for him in London. Almost at the end of his life he was writing to a Jesuit about the Thirty-nine Articles. Ralph Thoresby referred to him as "a great antiquary as well as an eminent divine."<sup>2</sup>

A Whig in politics in his latter days, he was always a staunch Anglican. He wrote to Timothy Manlove<sup>3</sup> about a book which he had lent him confuting Baxter's views of Church government, and offered that if he would accept Baxter's conclusions in the third chapter he might then single out two or three of the principal objections and Comber would answer them. There was no reply to this. He wrote *Three Considerations to William Penn Concerning the Security of his Magna Charta for Liberty of Conscience*. The three considerations were (1) the dispensing power, which rendered all laws null and void; (2) the High Commission Court, which could suspend William Penn as well as the Bishop of London; and (3) a standing army. Comber's great-grandson thought this was never published, but there is a printed copy in the British Museum library.

<sup>1</sup> *A Discourse Concerning the Rise and Antiquity of Cathedral Worship*, in a letter to a friend, June 1699. This seems the work referred to.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby. *Diary*. 26th August 1683.

<sup>3</sup> Timothy Manlove. Presbyterian minister and physician at Leeds. Died 1699.

It is dated 1687, and there were other editions in 1687 and 1695. What the younger Comber saw was a printed half-sheet giving the three general heads as if these were to be enlarged upon. The British Museum copy gives no author's name, only the words "By a Baptist," to which the library catalogue adds, "i.e. by T.C.," and in a further note the catalogue adds: His books were reprinted or used by other people frequently. Except for the three headings we may safely assume that the four-page pamphlet is not by Comber. The only pen-name he used was "a divine in the north." We cannot imagine him calling himself a Baptist in order to deceive the people for whom he was writing. Again, the *Memoirs* say that Joseph Wyeth<sup>1</sup> published *The Snake in the Grass* in 1686, and that Comber wrote observations upon it, having made from the book a complete confutation of the Quaker doctrine of the Inner Light. There are several mis-statements here. Charles Leslie<sup>2</sup> wrote *The Snake in the Grass* in 1696. Joseph Wyeth, in answer to the third edition of this, wrote *Anguis Flagellatus*. Perhaps Comber made notes on this in the last few months of his life. Long before that time he had written *Some Considerations touching the Quakers*, but this seems never to have been published. *Queries on the Declaration of James II* has already been mentioned, though under a somewhat different title. Two other unpublished papers were *Ten Queries touching the Quakers' Pretences to the Spirit of God* and *Christian Counsel to Moderate Dissenters*. In the latter he said that having lived before the Restoration he saw reason to be a thorough Conformist. He had never persecuted dissenters but had tried to live in charity with them, and had never used the power to enforce the laws concerning them. By preaching and writing he had tried to stem the tide of popery and arbitrary power even when it was dangerous to do so. He begged nonconformists to consider the scandal and danger of division, especially in the face of the conspiracy of the papists against Protestantism. Comber's Anglicanism might be unchanging, but the Tories were able to make capital out of his change of political loyalty, as was done by Abednego Seller<sup>3</sup> in his *History of Passive Obedience*.

<sup>1</sup> 1663-1731, a Quaker writer.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Leslie, 1650-1722. An Anglican clergyman who became a non-juror and produced much controversial writing.

<sup>3</sup> Abednego Seller, 1646-1705. Lincoln, Oxford. Vicar of Charles, Plymouth. Non-juror 1690. *History of Passive Obedience*, 1689, 2nd edition 1690.

Comber's long list of writings shows him to have been a man of great industry. One is inclined to wonder when he found time for chess and music, of both of which he was fond. Much of his writing was concerned with the controversies of his day and so has passed out of sight. His greatest work was the *Companion to the Temple*. Clavell published a new edition in folio in 1701, and Dr. William Cave and Dr. John Smith of Durham prepared it for the press. It has long been superseded, but in its day it shed light on the Prayer Book for thousands who had hitherto misunderstood or ignored it. Dr. John Smith<sup>1</sup> urged Comber to publish his sermons, but he pleaded that except sermons preached on special occasions he seldom wrote them out in full. A few of the special sermons were published separately during the dean's lifetime, and though Dr. Smith asked the widow to trust him with the manuscript notes of others with a view to publication they were never published and probably now never will be.

Even in the heat of controversy, and controversy was both violent and scurrilous in the seventeenth century, Comber was less abused than many. His high character was generally treated with great respect. For an exception we may glance at a letter from D. N. Thynne to John Arnold,<sup>2</sup> dated 12th June 1696. "Pray (if it be not too late) under the article *Domus mea specus latronum*, put in the Dean of Durham as well as Worcester, and put out the prebends of Worcester."<sup>3</sup> But this is obviously mere political slander. The *Memoirs* have preserved for us some of Comber's verses. They include love songs, verses "In Praise of Female Modesty" and "In Praise of King William," an elegy on the death of his son, another on the death of Queen Mary, religious and satiric verses. His anti-Catholic verses are more savage than "satirical." He had artistic tastes, and in his great-grandson's time there were specimens of his work still existing, including heraldic painting in which he seems to have been very proficient, and a pen-drawing of King's College Chapel. His loyalty to his college was shown by the fact that he kept

<sup>1</sup> John Smith. Minor Canon, Durham, 1682. Prebendary 1695. Rector of Gateshead 1695. D.D., Cambridge, 1696. Rector of Bishopwearmouth 1704. Edited the works of Bede, but died 1715 before this was finished.

<sup>2</sup> Capt. John Arnold. J.P. for Monmouthshire, a strong Whig, active in the Popish Plot business.

<sup>3</sup> Hist. MSS. Com. *The Marquess of Downshire*, I. 611.

a portrait of the foundress, the Countess of Sidney, in his house all the days of his life.

There exist two letters from Mrs. Comber to Mr. Rowell<sup>1</sup> of the Bailey, Durham. She wrote from Ouseburn on 20th February 1702 asking him to collect her rents as she was unable to collect them herself, and he would prevail better with the tenants than if she sent a servant. She had formerly written to know what sum of money was paid to Mr. Loadman or Isaac Cooper after her husband came last from London. Apparently Rowell had forgotten to answer this enquiry. The second letter, dated 27th March 1703, said she had not written for so long because of her affliction for her great loss, but she had received the money from Lawyer Cuthbert.<sup>2</sup> The chapter had been enquiring for a book, but it was at Newton, where she had not been since the funeral of her son. Her daughter Blackburne, "to whom it hath pleased God to give the blessing of a fine daughter," joined with her in sending her service to him.<sup>3</sup> The letter is written in a different hand from the last. Perhaps Mrs. Blackburne wrote it for her. Mrs. Comber died 20th January 1720/1 at York and was buried at Stonegrave on the 22nd, beside her eldest son William.

<sup>1</sup> Solicitor and Notary of Durham.

<sup>2</sup> John Cuthbert, Recorder of Durham 1705-6.

<sup>3</sup> Hunter MSS., Durham. *Letters*, II, 135, 136.

## THE WRITINGS OF THOMAS COMBER

[*Christus Triumphans: Comœdia Apocalypticæ. Accessit in Christum Triumphantem autoris eiusdem panegyricon. Basileæ 1556.* Editore T. C. Sidn. Collegii, A. M. Londini 1672. 16mo.

This was by George Fox the martyrologist, and was written in Latin verse in five acts. New edition.

The “T. C. Sidn. Coll.” suggest Comber, but it is very doubtful whether he really was the editor. He never mentions it.]

*A Companion to the Temple and Closet*, or, An Help to private devotion, in an Essay upon the daily Offices of the Church. Printed for Henry Brome at the Gun at the West End of St. Paul’s, and Robert Clavell in Cross Keys Court, in Little Britain. 8vo. 1672.

*A Companion to the Altar*, or, An Help to the worthy Receiving of the Lord’s Supper, by Discourses and Meditations upon the whole Communion Office. To which is added, An Essay upon Baptism and Confirmation. Printed for J. Martyn at the Bell in St. Paul’s Churchyard and Richard Lambert in York. 8vo. 1675. Dedicated to Richard, Archbishop of York.

*A Companion to the Temple*, or An Help to Devotion in the daily Use of the Common Prayer. In Two Parts. Part II containing the Litany with the Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings. 8vo. 1676. Dedicated to the Earl of Danby.

Second Edition. Corrected. 1679.

In subsequent editions this was made the Third Part.

*A Companion to the Temple*, or, A Help to Devotion in the daily Use of the Common Prayer. In Two Parts. Part I containing the Morning and Evening Prayers. The Second Edition, with Additions. By Thomas Comber, M.A. Printed by Henry Price. 8vo. 1676.

Third Edition, with Additions, 1679.

*A Companion to the Altar, etc.* To which is added an Essay upon the Offices of Baptism, Catechism and Confirmation. Printed for J. Martyn and sold by R. Clavell at the Peacock in St. Paul's Churchyard. 8vo. 1678.

Second Edition. 1688. Printed by John Meacock for John Martyn at the Bell in St. Paul's Churchyard. Dedicated to Tillotson.

*The Occasional Offices of Matrimony, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, Churching of Women and the Commination, explained in the Method of the "Companion to the Temple."* Printed for Henry Brome at the Gun and Robert Clavell at the Peacock in St. Paul's Churchyard. 8vo. 1679.

*A Companion to the Temple*, or, a Help to Devotion in the Use of the Common Prayer, divided into four parts. Folio. 1684.

*A Discourse on the Offices for the V<sup>th</sup> of November, XXX<sup>th</sup> day of January and XXIX<sup>th</sup> of May.* Printed by Samuel Rycroft for Robert Clavell. 8vo. 1696.

*A Discourse upon the Forms and Manner of Making, Ordaining and Consecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons*, according to the Order of the Church of England. By Tho. Comber, D.D., Dean of Durham and Chaplain in Ordinary to his Majesty. Printed by Samuel Rycroft for R. Clavell. 8vo. 1698.

*A Treatise on the Sacrament*, or, An Help to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper, by Discourses and Meditations upon the whole Communion Office, to which is added, An Essay upon the Offices of Baptism, Catechism and Confirmation. By Tho. Comber, D.D., and Dean of Durham. Printed for C. Brome at the West End of St. Paul's. 8vo. 1699.

(A Reprint of *A Companion to the Altar*.)

*A Companion to the Temple*, or, A Help to Devotion in the Use of the Common Prayer; divided into Four Parts. The Fourth Edition corrected and enlarged. By Thomas Comber, D.D., Dean of Durham. Printed for R. Clavell, S. Rycroft, C. Brome and A. Churchill. Folio 1701.

*A Companion to the Temple*, or, A Help to Devotion in the Use of the Common Prayer. Vol. II. Containing a general Preface concerning the Usefulness and Necessity of Forms of Common Prayer in Public Worship, with the several Tracts following,

viz: A Scholastical History of the primitive and general Use of Liturgies and stated Forms of Publick or Common Prayer, without the controversial Part. 2. A Discourse on the Offices for the 5th of November, the 30th of January and 29th of May. 3. A Discourse upon the Form and Manner of making, ordaining and consecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons, according to the Order of the Church of England. 4. An Exposition on the Lord's Prayer. 5. A Discourse of Excommunication. 6. A Dialogue about Tythes. With the Reverend Dr. Cave's Letter to the Publisher, after perusal of the several Books contained in this Volume. By Tho. Comber, D.D., Dean of Durham. Printed for R. Cavell at the Peacock in St. Paul's Churchyard. 1702.

Reprinted 1703.

Edition in seven volumes. Oxford, 1841.

*Friendly and Seasonable Advice to the Roman Catholics of England.*  
Offered by a Charitable Hand and very proper to be recommended for their serious Perusal by all their Well-wishers. Printed for H. Brome at the Gun in St. Paul's Churchyard. May 1674.

Second edition enlarged. Nov. 1674.

Third edition "Enlarged with an Addition of the most convincing Instances and Authorities, and the Testimony of their own Authors for the same." 1677.

Reprinted 1679 and 1680.

Fourth edition. "By Thomas Comber, D.D." 1686.

Reprinted 1697.

Reprinted with Notes and a Preface by W. F. Hook. 1836.

Reprinted 1847.

*The Right of Tythes Asserted:* and proved from Divine Institution, Primitive Practice, Voluntary Donations and Positive Laws. With a just Vindication of that Sacred Maintenance from the Cavil of Thomas Ellwood, in his pretended Answer to the *Friendly Conference.* Sold by E. Croft at the Two Golden Lyons in the Poultry. 8vo. 1677.

*Christianity no Enthusiasm:* or the several kinds of Inspirations and Revelations pretended to by the Quakers, tried and found destructive to Holy Scripture and True Religion, in answer

to Thomas Ellwoods Defence thereof: in his Tract miscalled *Truth Prevailing*. Sold by H. Brome at the Gun. 8vo. 1678.

*The Right of Tithes Re-asserted*: Wherein the Proofs from Divine Institution, Primitive Practice, Voluntary Donation and Positive Laws are further strengthened and vindicated, and especially from the Objections taken out of Mr. Seldens' *History of Tithes*. By the Author of *The Right of Tithes Asserted*. Printed for H. Brome at the Gun and R. Clavell at the Peacock in St. Paul's Churchyard. 8vo. 1680.

*The Church Catechism*, with a brief and easie Explanation thereof, for the help of the meanest Capacities and weakest Memories. By T. C., D.D. Sold by R. Clavell and J. Brome in St. Paul's Churchyard. Two sheets. 1681.

Reprinted twice in 1686.

Reprinted with additions, 1694.

A copy in Durham Cathedral Library bears the date "Printed in 1662."

*Religion and Loyalty supporting each other*, or, A rational Account how the Loyal Addresses, maintaining the Lineal Descent of the Crown is very consistent with their Affection to the Established Protestant Religion. By a true Son of the Church of England. Printed for R. Clavell at the Peacock in St. Paul's Churchyard. 4to. 1681.

*An Historical Vindication of the Divine Right of Tythes*, from Scripture, Reason, and the Opinion and Practice of Jews, Gentiles and Christians in all Ages, designed to supply the Omissions, answer the Objections, and rectifie the Mistakes of Mr. Selden's *History of Tythes*. By Thomas Comber, D.D. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1681.

Second Edition, corrected and revised, 1685.

*A Historical Vindication of the Divine Right of Tithes*: which is further proved by Scripture and Antiquity, and illustrated by solemn Consecration and great Convenience of them: with an answer to the Objections of other Authors against them. Part II. Together with *A Discourse Concerning Excommunication*. By Tho. Comber. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1685.

*The Nature, Necessity and Usefulness of Solemn Judicial Swearing*

with the Impiety and Mischief of Vain and false Swearing. In a Sermon preached July 14th 1681 in the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in York at the Assizes for that County. By Tho. Comber, D.D., Prebendary of York. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1682.

Also 1687, 1688, 1735 and 1800.

*Animadversions on Dr. Burnet's "History of the Rights of Princes"* in disposing of Ecclesiastical Benefices and Church Lands. In a Letter to a Friend. London. 4to. 1682.

*Short Discourses upon the whole "Common Prayer"*: designed to inform the Judgment, and excite the Devotion of such as daily use the same. By Thomas Comber, D.D. Dedicated to Princess Anne. Printed for R. Clavell. 8vo. 1685.

Second edition 1688.

Reprinted 1702.

*A Collection of Texts of Scripture* with short notes upon them, and some observations against the principal popish errors. Being a summary of the Doctrine of the Church, with a plain refutation by Scripture. 12mo. London, 1686.

Afterwards altered and enlarged and published as :

*The Plausible Arguments of a Romish Priest* answered by an English Protestant. Seasonable and Useful for all Protestant Families. Printed for R. Clavell. 8vo. 1686. Second Title on p. 1. "A Dialogue between a Popish Priest and a Protestant of the Church of England."

Reprinted the same year.

*The Plausible Arguments of a Roman Priest from Antiquity* answered by the Author of the Answer to the Plausible Arguments from Scripture. In a Dialogue. London. 4to. 1687. Part II. London, 1688.

*Response aux Arguments les plus Plausibles d'un Prêtre de l'Eglise Romaine* par un Protestant Anglois. Traduit de l'Anglois, Sold by R. Clavell. 8vo. 1688.

*The Plausible Arguments of a Roman Catholick* answer'd by an English Protestant from Scripture and Antiquity. By the late Tho. Comber, Dean of Durham. Printed for R. Clavell. 8vo. 1699.

Reprinted 1725, 1735, 1745 and at York about 1800.

*A Discourse of Duels*: shewing the sinful Nature and mischievous Effects of them, and answering the usual Excuses made for them by Challengers, Acceptors and Seconds. By T. C., D.D. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1687.

*Frequent and Fervent Prayers*, according to Scripture and Primitive Usage, as it is now practised by pious members of the Church of England. Printed for R. Clavell. 12mo. 1687.

*A Discourse concerning the Daily Frequenting the 'Common Prayer'*, by Tho. Comber, D.D. Printed for Charles Brome at the Gun. 1687.

Reprinted 1688 and 1697.

*Three Considerations proposed to Mr. William Penn*. Concerning the Validity and Security of his new Magna Charta for Liberty of Conscience. By a Baptist. pp. 4. 1687.

Second edition 1687. 3rd 1695.

Only a portion of this seems to be Comber's. See p. lxiv.

*A Discourse concerning the Second Council of Nice*, which first introduced and established Image Worship in the Christian Church. Anno Dom. 787. Printed for Walter Kettily at the Bishop's Head in St. Paul's Yard. 1688.

*A Modest Vindication of the Protestants of England who joined the Prince of Orange*. London, 1689.

*A Discourse* showing that it is lawful and our Duty to swear Allegiance to King William, notwithstanding the oath of Allegiance taken to the late King. By a Divine in the North. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1689.

*The Church History Cleared from the Roman Forgeries* in the Councils during the first four Centuries, together with an Appendix concerning the Forgeries and Errors in the "Annals" of Baronius. By Tho. Comber, D.D., Prebendary of York. Printed by Samuel Rycroft for R. Clavell. 4to. 1689. Dedicated to the Archbishop of York.

Pt. I deals with the first three centuries. Pt. II with the fourth century.

*The Church History Cleared from the Roman Forgeries and Corruptions* found in the Councils and Baronius, from the Year 400 till the end of the Fifth General Council. Anno Dom. 553, being the Third and Fourth Parts of the "Roman Forgeries."

By Thomas Comber, D.D. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1695.  
Dedicated to the Archbishop of York.

Pt. I deals with the fifth century. Pt. II with A.D. 500 to 553.

*A Scholastic History of the Primitive and General Use of Liturgies*  
in the Christian Church. Together with an Answer to Mr.  
David Clarkson's "Discourse concerning Liturgies." By Tho.  
Comber, D.D., Precentor of York. Pt. I dedicated to King  
William and Queen Mary. Pt. II, "which compleats the His-  
tory." Printed for R. Clavell. 1690.

*The Examiner Briefly Examined.* Being a Vindication of the His-  
tory of Liturgies. By Tho. Comber, D.D. Printed for R.  
Clavell. 1691.

*The Protestant Mask taken off from the Jesuited Englishman:* being  
an Answer to a Book "Great Britain's Just Complaint." Printed  
for R. Clavell. 4to. 1692.

*The Reasons for Praying for the Peace of our Jerusalem,* in a Sermon  
preached before the Queen, at Whitehall, on the Fast Day, Aug.  
29, 1694. By Tho. Comber, Dean of Durham, and Chaplain in  
Ordinary to their Majesties. Printed by Her Majesty's special  
Command. Printed for R. Clavell. 4to. 1694.

*A Sermon* preached in the Cathedral Church of Durham, December  
2nd, being the Day of Thanksgiving for the Peace. London,  
1697.

# The History of my Life: Collec ted Anno Domini 1695 & — 96

BEING fixt by Providence in a remote country, 200 miles and above from the place of my nativity; I see fitt to give some account of my self, as well that I may not seem ungratefull for God's mercys: as that others may not be ignorant of my obligations to his providence.

My Father's family was very ancient in Sussex, at Barkham, bestowed (as tis said) upon one of our Ancestors—de Combre, who came into England with William the Conquerour: and had this Mannor given him for killing the Saxon, or Danish Lord of it, at the victory near the place where Battail Abby<sup>1</sup> was afterwards built: This is certain that my fathers Granfather was a Councillor at law, and justice of the peace in the Reign of Qu: Eliz: and one of his sons was father to D<sup>r</sup> Thomas Comber Dean of Carlisle, and Master of Trinity Colledge in Cambridge: a man of great learning, and worth; (sequestred for his loyalty by the Rebels) who dyed An. Dom 1654 he had promised to educate me and provide for me; which no doubt he had done, if he had lived to see me entred at Cambridge.

As for my father M<sup>r</sup> James Comber, he was the youngest son of his father; who dyed and left him to his elder Brothers care, but this brother gave him little, or nothing of his portion only bound him aprentice to a Grocer in Southwark, so he became a Freeman of London.

My mother was the daughter of an old and loyal yeoman of Kent, M<sup>r</sup> Bryan Burton, who by M<sup>r</sup>s Alice Austen had two sons, Bryan, and Thomas Burton, and two daughters Joice and Mary; the latter (my mother) was first marryed to M<sup>r</sup> Edward Hampden Mercer of

<sup>1</sup> Battle Abbey is meant.

Westram<sup>1</sup> in Kent, where she was born: She was not much above eighteen years old at this her first marriage: and was left so young a widow by M<sup>r</sup> Hampden's Death, that she, and her daughter by him, when she was left a widow: did not (reckoning both their ages) make twenty years.

**An: 1640**      About this time my mother was marryed to my father; and had by him five children, James, Thomas, John, and myself, and a daughter called Ann: the second and third dyed Infants, and the daughter lived only seven years, a Child of great wit, and good Features. I was born at Westram in Kent, at the end of y<sup>e</sup> year 1644 on the nineteenth day of March, being Wednesday late at Night, and baptized by M<sup>r</sup> Bray on Sunday 23<sup>d</sup> in Westram Church: I being the last Child that was Christened in that Font by the Common Prayer form w<sup>ch</sup> the Rebels then put down; and a daughter of my half sister (M<sup>rs</sup> Puckle) was the first Child (and out of the same house) that was

**1660**      Christned by the restored Form. Anno Dom: 1660.

The rebellion growing hot, during my infancy: My Grandfather M<sup>r</sup> Burton was sequestred, and my father so ill used; that he was forced (for his loyalty) to Fly into Flanders for 4 years; leaving me wholly to the care of my most dear, and indulgent mother.

In my infancy I laboured under a great, and long weakness; Insomuch that my life was frequently despaired of: but at last by the extraordinary care of my dear mother, and the medicines of the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Bray then minister of Westram it pleased God to restore me; yet so as I was four years old before I could go alone: that long sickness having extreamly weakned me.

**1648**      As soon as I could walk I went to an English school; and being about six years old I removed to a latine Master, A Rev<sup>d</sup> and learned old Gentleman named M<sup>r</sup> Tho: Walter, who had then a flourishing school at Westram, and sent divers to the University from thence. He grounded me in the latine tongue, and having composed a Greek Grammar (w<sup>ch</sup> I have In manuscript) but being disabled by the Palsie to transcribe it himself fair, he taught me to write, and read Greek, before I was Ten years old.

<sup>1</sup> Westerham.

1653 Soon after one M<sup>r</sup> Evans (brother to my Uncle Francis Comber's wife) who had a great repute at London for a short way of Teaching, invited me to his school: and I went to him about half a year: and then was removed to the great free school at Sevenoakes to M<sup>r</sup> Hooper but falling into the measles I was taken away from thence also, and sent again to M<sup>r</sup> Evans at London.

1655 On the end of this year I fell into the small pox, and was in Danger of Death, but by God's mercy recovering I then left London, and went back to my old and best beloved master M<sup>r</sup> Walter, and he instructed me till his Death: w<sup>th</sup> hapned Feb: 21, 1657. I had profitted so much by his publick and private instructions That M<sup>r</sup> Barham (who was the first scholar my master had sent to the university (Cambridge), and was then come to preach his funerall sermon) examining me did think me

1658 neer fit for the university. However M<sup>r</sup> Holland then Minister of westram, advised me to stay one year more with him, because I was so very young, and that I might be better qualified; and he read to me for one year in choice greek and latine Authours.

1659 At the age of fourteen I went to Cambridge, and Providence directed my Father (to choose) the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Edmund Mathewes for my Tutor: under whom I was admitted into Sidney Sussex Colledge April 18<sup>th</sup>. It is Impossible to express how much I owe to the learning and Communicativeness of this my worthy Tutor who lent me all sorts of books, and taught me privately all kinds of sciences and ingenious Arts; viz. experimental Philosophy, Geometry &c. Astronomy, Painting, Musick, Dialling, and other parts of Mathematicks; and besides made me understand all the Orientall Tongues, and put me into an excellent method to reduce all that I should read in Philology and Divinity into Common places, of which I have found incredible benefit in all my studys.

My Father oppressed w<sup>th</sup> the iniquity of those times, was not so able as he was willing to maintain me at the University. But my Mother by the help of M<sup>r</sup> Barham aforsaid, Minister of great S<sup>t</sup> Hellens in London procured 10<sup>l</sup> per an: out of a fund of 300<sup>l</sup> per an: given by Kentish men Citizens of London, towards the maintenance of divers scholars in both Universitys, & about one year after my

admission Dr Minshall the Master of the Colledge (without my knowledge) recommended me to a pious (London) Merchant trading at Hamburgh Mr Walter Pell who gave me 5<sup>l</sup> p an: more w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup>, and my Tutors great kindness I lived very well and put my Father to little more charge then only for my clothes & books after the first year.

1662 After three years I was duly elected a scholar of the house<sup>1</sup> & at Chrismas after took my degree of B: of Arts given me in the Colledge. To w<sup>ch</sup> degree after a strict and publick Examination by Mr Covell<sup>2</sup> of Christ's Colledge: I was solemnly admitted by Dr Rainbow<sup>3</sup> Ma<sup>r</sup> of Magd: Col then vice Chancellour, January 21<sup>st</sup> being not then 18 years old.

My wishes were to have stayed at Cambridge, and I had some promises of a Fellowship of S Johns by Dr Gunning but the deferring it and the Kentish Gentlemen taking away their 10<sup>l</sup> p An from me & all others, to supply the Nonconformist ministers, then put out, I was obliged to leave the university and retired home to study; where a pious old Gentleman Mr John Holney<sup>4</sup> came to see me & desiring me to pray for him, gave me as much as put me into very good equipage promising to give me annually whatsoever I needed; this was then a great & unexpected favour to me but (blessed be God) after that time I never wanted, and so gave him no more trouble; but he lived till I presented him w<sup>th</sup> my first book on the Common Pray<sup>r</sup> and he received it with great joy: & I may note here y<sup>t</sup> my worthy patron Mr Pell lived to hear me preach a sermon at London to his satisfaction w<sup>ch</sup> he expressed by Treating me at Dinner, & by a handsome present, but these things hapned afterward.

1663 I had not been long at home with my mother before my old master Mr William Holland then rector of All-Hollows Staining in London, earnestly invited me to his house, & wanting a reader, he procured a dispensation, and letters Demissary from Gilbert B of London, to George B of S Asaph, who ordained me Deacon August 18 1663 in the Chappel of Henry the 7<sup>th</sup>. After w<sup>ch</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The scholarship was worth £5 a year.

<sup>2</sup> John Covill or Covell. B.A. Christ's College 1658. M.A. 1661. D.D. 1670. Travelled in the East. Rector of Littlebury, Essex, and Kegworth, Leicestershire. Chancellor of York 1687. Master of Christ's College, 1688. Died 1722.

<sup>3</sup> Edward Rainbow, D.D. Master of Magdalene College 1642. Restored 1660. Vice-chancellor 1662. Dean of Peterborough 1661-64. Bishop of Carlisle 1664-84.

<sup>4</sup> John Holney of Edenbridge, a particular friend of Comber's father.

I studied in Sion Colledge library & read prayers on Sundays for M<sup>r</sup> Holland, but within two Months M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Mompesson Rector of Bilsthorp in Nottinghamshire, wrt to My friend M<sup>r</sup> Holland to send him down a Curate for m<sup>r</sup> Gilbert Bennets living at Stongrave in yorkshire: who promised (if he liked the man) to resign the living to him that should come after a year or two.

Upon this I took leave of my dear mother (who was troubled to part with me so far) and set out for yorkshire September 28 1663. I visited Cambridge by the way, and perceived a Fellowship had fell void of which I had no notice (till M<sup>r</sup> Covill told me) from my Tutor, w<sup>ch</sup> I took unkindly. I stayed some time at Southwell, with old M<sup>r</sup> Bennett, who treated me with great respect at last October 17, I came to Stongrave in Yorkshire. I had preached but twice before I came thither (that is at Bilsthorp aforesaid in Nottinghamshire) & finding that I needed not [write] notes any more then the heads: I ventured to trust my memory for the matter, & my invention for the expressions, which as it gave great content to the people, so it gave me a great deal of time to study, w<sup>ch</sup> I did so employ, that I filled my

Common Place Book in a few years time.

**1664** The Church of Dalby in yorkshire, vacant by the death of M<sup>r</sup> Watson, was freely offered me, but I refused it, & procured it for my old Friend M<sup>r</sup> Charls Man. On the 25 of September I was after a solemn examination publickly ordained Priest in York Minster by the most Rev<sup>d</sup> Fath: in God, Richard Stern, then lately made Arch Bishop of York: I was not asked my age, which it seems my other qualifications had excused: for I was then under 20 years old, & when this was objected to that good Archbishop; I heard him say he had no reason to regret his ordaining me so soon.

On the 13 of March at the earnest request of W<sup>m</sup> Thornton Esq and his pious Lady I removed my lodging from Stonegrave & went to live at his house at Newton, where I had for many years great opportunity of improving both in piety & all sorts of learning; It being a fine retirement, & yet affording me very choice company.

**1665** And there I spent the next year in close study, preaching every Sunday in the forenoon, & expounding on the Caticism in the afternoon, w<sup>ch</sup> I continued as long as I lived there.

1666 In the Month of May I began my journey to Cambridge, and there performed all my exercise, for my Master of Arts degree, & then went on to London; where I met my brother James, who with his wife had both escaped, though both were visited by the plague, & all their children dyed of it: I went from thence into Kent, where while I stayed, the Plague broke out so violently at Cambridge, that the publick commencement was put off, & I was admitted M<sup>r</sup> of Arts by Proxy, being then little more than 21 years of age. At this time my old friend M<sup>r</sup> Holland invited me back into the south, offering me the Rectory of Wakering in Essex of 80<sup>l</sup> p. an: but hearing the place was unhealthfull, and having hopes of Stongrave, I thankfully owned his favour: but not accepting of the living I returned into the North.

In November M<sup>r</sup> Bennet did resign Stongrave, & I went to London [again] to get the Archbishop of York to accept it; but Gilbert then Archbishop of Canterbury, fearing that M<sup>r</sup> Bennet would expect a better living from him, opposed it, & I was forced to return without effecting my business. In that journey I saw London In ashes & the cellars yet smoaking, after that dreadfull fire in September Before Decem: 5<sup>th</sup> The Rig<sup>t</sup>: Honer: John, Lord Frescheville, Baron of Stavely, Uncle to Madam Thornton my especiall friend; gave me a patent to be his Chaplain.

1667 In this year I fell into a very dangerous Feavour, which continued most of July, but by God's mercy I recovered.

1668 My worthy friend W<sup>m</sup> Thornton Esq, was seized w<sup>th</sup> a cold Palsie at Malton and dyed there Sept: 17 that year, a

Person of good learning, great sobriety, & courteous temper, who though he was educated amongst the Presbyterians, yet I had fully reconciled him to the Church of England long before his death. To prevent my removing back into the South, Madam Thornton had given consent that I should have her daughter M<sup>r</sup>s Alice; and as I had been a means to secure her fortune and her sister's during her Fathers life: so she finding me likely to be more serviceable to the Family after his death (the heir being but 7 years old, & the daughters being both very young) Resolved to grant my request, & gave me leave by Licence from York, privately to marry my now dear wife, her eldest daughter M<sup>r</sup>s Alice: The marriage being made at Newton Novemb: 17 in this year by M<sup>r</sup> Charls

Man, but was not made publick for some reasons till May 17<sup>th</sup> in the next year.

1669      The resignation of Stongrave living was at last accepted & I presented to it under the broad seal of England by K Charls the 2<sup>d</sup>, by the interest of my good Lord & Patron the Lord Frescheville my zealous and (most) sincere friend Octob. 3. I was instituted into that living by Archbishop Stern Octob, 9, & inducted by M<sup>r</sup> Charls Man the 12 of that month.

1670      Feb : 2 My dear Father dyed and was buried at Harwich in Essex, whither some affairs had called him not long before. Before this his circumstances rendred my kindness to him necessary, & God knows I was not wanting in my duty. The last day of the same month dyed my Granmother M<sup>r</sup>s Alice Burton at westram, aged above 80 years having lived to see 66 persons, children, Granchildren, Greatgranchildren, to issue from her and My Granfather who dyed 7 years before.

1671      My dear mother set at liberty from the pious care she took of her aged parent, came to see me in yorkshire May 29 in this year : & was entreated to stay some time with me at Newton to her very great satisfaction, for though she was the chief instrument of my education & had carryed it on w<sup>th</sup> so great dificulty at first, she never had any opertunity to be (live) with me (from my first going to Cambridge) till now.

1672      But Alass while she was preparing to return into her own country, she first fell into an ague at Candlemas, and then into a feaver about Easter, w<sup>ch</sup> proved fatal to her, and gave me opportunity (with mighty sorrow) to close the eye of the most affectionate mother in the world. A person of great Parts, lovely aspect & admirable piety, and so tender of me, that her whole life was dedicated to my improvement in learning, & vertue, & I believe no son & mother did ever more entirely love : Nor did I ever know anything touch my heart so neer as her death, which happened on the 13th of May 1672, & the 15th of that Month, I buried her on the right hand of the Altar at Stongrave. Among other memorable things of this excellent Woman (to whose piety, & vertue I owe all that religious education w<sup>ch</sup> seasoned my youth, & all my first steps to future preferment) One thing was not to be forgotten that whereas she always feared the stroke of Death, & ever begged of

God for strength to bear it like a Christian, she died without any visible torment & told me not many minutes before she was neither sick nor in pain.

The grief for this loss brought me again into a dangerous feaver, of w<sup>ch</sup> I was not recovered till August, during this illness, came out of the press, my first book called A Companion To The Temple, Part 1<sup>st</sup>, of w<sup>ch</sup> my dear Mother had read & heard many (divers) sheets before her death to her abundant comfort: this book w<sup>th</sup> the other three (following) parts, are owing to my retirement at Newton, where I constantly & daily used the common Prayer.

1673 December 10th My dear wife was brought to bed of her first son on Wednesday about 12 a'clock, but the infant expired as soon as it was born & could not be baptized.

1674 Jan 2<sup>d</sup> My 2<sup>d</sup> book on the Common prayer now (part III<sup>rd</sup>) made called A Companion To The Altar was printed & published; and in the beginning of this year was printed A little Tract called "Advice to the Roman Catholicks," to w<sup>ch</sup> there was no Author's name.

1675 [May 27]. My dear wife & I went to London where after I had visited my friends & dispatched my affairs, we returned (both) safe to Newton July 25 (14).

Jan 3 my 2<sup>d</sup> son was born alive (upon his mother's birth day) & christned privately next day (John) but the office was publickly performed Jan: 6: his sponsors being John Lord Freschiville, S<sup>r</sup> Christopher Wandesford (brother to Madam Thornton) & the Lady York. I was 16 months in writing the 2<sup>d</sup> part of the Common Prayer viz: that on the Litany, w<sup>ch</sup> I began on Septem: 26; 1674, & finished

Jan 26: 1675: & it was printed & published March 14, 1675.  
1676 This gave me occasion to reprint the first book the 1<sup>st</sup> part of my "Companion To The Temple" on Morning, & Evening Prayer so that now 3 Parts were extant.

Feb 23 My Honour'd Patron the L Freschiville writ to me word that Archbishop Stern had given me the Prebend of Holm in the Church of York, but advised me not to be installed too soon, because he intended me a better, if any fell in six months.

1677 My dear & onely son John (a child of great hopes), after he had pined away for half a year dyed April 22 & left us in great sorrow.

July 5<sup>th</sup> I was installed Prebendary of Holm Archiep: in the church of York, & on the 15th preached my first sermon as Canon of that church, in w<sup>ch</sup> this was my first preferment.

My first book in 8<sup>vo</sup> of the right of Tithes ag<sup>st</sup> T Elwood a Quaker was finished.

1678 May 20 Anno 33 I was invited to London & had 5 guinies presented me towards my charges by S<sup>r</sup> John Benet, whc never saw me, only he had read my Books, as had also the Princisses of Orange & Denmark, whose thanks I received from the latter, y<sup>t</sup> had by my 3<sup>d</sup> part been prepared for her first receiving the holy Sacrament the Easter before.

At that time I preached before the Lord Mayor at Guildhall chappel.

I also then put my 4<sup>th</sup> part "On the occasionall offices" into the press.

Jun. 28. And was designed to keep the Divinity act at Cambr: by Ar: B<sup>p</sup> Sancroft, but I declining that his Grace created me Docter of Divinity by his Patent being then but 33 years of age.

Jul: 23. After my return w<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Lane I first saw Durham.

Nov. 19. My 3<sup>d</sup> son was born, who was baptized & called Thomas, Dr Watkinson, & M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Lane Comptroller of Lond: being his Godfathers, and his Granmother his Godmother.

Jan 10. Upon this my L Falckenbridge perceiving me to be the author of The Advice to the Rom Cath: he had some years before, offered to get me another living, if I would find out any, & let him know who was Patron: after 14 days consideration

I pitched on Thornton, of w<sup>ch</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Hugh Chomly was Patron & he engaged the Earl of Danby, (L Treasurer) & My L<sup>d</sup> Frescheville in requesting it of S<sup>r</sup> Hugh, whose promise I concealed till this time, that M<sup>r</sup> Chris Bradley the last incumbent dyed, & then S<sup>r</sup> Hugh generously & freely gave it me. & My L<sup>d</sup> Ar. B<sup>p</sup> of Cant: readily Granted me a Dispensation: Stongrave & Thornton lying but ten miles distant.

Jan 19 I preached my first sermon there & was instituted Feb: 11 & inducted by Marm: Wykes vicar of Ellerburn Feb: 17.

1679 Upon a new election of Convocation men I was un-  
April 11. animously chosen with M<sup>r</sup> Burton Vicar of Sutton-le-

forest, at Easingwold for the Archdeaconry of Cleveland; & I always had place in the Convocation ever since.

Oct. 31. Upon T Ellwood's<sup>1</sup> reply to my book of the right of Tithes I answered him in a 2<sup>d</sup> Tract called "The Right of Tithes reasserted."

Nov. 1. My wives sister Cath: being now mariageable, I used my endeavours to settle her suitable to her fortune, & Quality; & Treated w<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Potter<sup>2</sup> an Alderman of Leeds but we could not agree.

Feb 19. My dear, and only child living, my son Thomas by torment in getting teeth fell into fits of the convulsions, & was in danger of Death but by Gods mercy he recovered at that time.

**1680** Having with great care educated M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Thornton The April 19. heir of Newton Under M<sup>r</sup> Denton first, & then under M<sup>r</sup> Burton; so that he was very fit for the University I went up with him (& one Math: Smith who was to be his siser) & admitted them in Sidney Coll in Cambridge under M<sup>r</sup> James Johnson<sup>3</sup> fellow there April : 24:

Dec. 11. I finished my 1<sup>st</sup> p<sup>t</sup> of the History of Tithes against Selden: but it was not published this year.

There being about 140<sup>l</sup> p an: given by the Lady Eliz: Viscountesse Lumly, D: & Coheir of Danvers E. of Danby, to pious uses for 12 hospitals, & a school at Thornton: whereof I (as Parson of Thornton) was a Trustee, these rents had been received & not well payd by M<sup>r</sup> Nich: Grey, Parson of Sinnington, & he failing by Suretyship; I was forced for security [securing] of these rents, to enter upon the receipt of them, & did improve them, & let leases of them [all], & payd the poor more punctually, than ever they had been before, & did all this gratis (my charges excepted)

**1680** refusing a Salary of 20 Nobles p. An: w<sup>ch</sup> the former receivers had taken, & payd some arrears w<sup>ch</sup> the last Receiver left unpaid.

<sup>1</sup> T. Ellwood had replied to Comber's former treatise in a pamphlet "The Foundation of Tithes Shaken," 1678.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Thomas Potter, gent., elected to Leeds Corporation as Assistant 1673. Alderman 1681. His last appearance was in 1699. Thoresby speaks gratefully of his kindness. *Diary*, I, 324.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. James Johnson. M.A. Sidney Sussex College 1662. B.D. 1669, D.D. 1689. Fellow of Sidney. Master 1688-1704.

Jan 31. Sir Jo: Benet (after L Osulston) eldest son<sup>1</sup> to the E of Arlington offered me the living of Arlington in Middlesex & to make it 150 p an: & get me a lectureship in London of 100<sup>£</sup> p An: more, & in due time a Preb: but with much importunity I excused myself, being engaged in the North, & the Family at Newton not willing to let me go.

Mar: 8. My dear wife brought me a Daughter at half an hour after 11: who was christened Alice the 15, M<sup>r</sup> Worsley Godfather, M<sup>rs</sup> Portington & her Grandmother, Godmothers, baptized at Stongrave by M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Walker.

**1681** Repaired the floor, roof, & windows & set up the rails at Ap: 21. Thornton Choir.

26. My dear, & only son Thomas, (a child of great hopes, who could sing true notes, ere he could speak) dyed, & was buried at Stongrave church, M<sup>r</sup> Man preaching his fun: Sermon.

July 4. The most rev<sup>d</sup> F: in God Richard Stern A B: of York  
**1681** desired me to resign my Preb: of Holm Arcep: and freely offered me that of Fenton, & gave me time to deliberate: but having preached the Assize sermon on vi Hebr: 18 at York, about Oaths (w<sup>ch</sup> is printed) July 14: he pressed me to accept it, so that I was instituted preb: of Fenton, July 16: 1681 which was much more in valew then my former Prebend.

I received my 1<sup>st</sup> pt of the History of Tithes, now printed against M<sup>r</sup> Selden.

About the same time was printed a book to convince the D: of York, that no person in succession to the Crown of Engl: ought to embrace Popery, & to persuade the people of Eng: not to alter the succession, the Title was "Religion & Loyalty" the Author was unknown, but one book was sent into Scotland to the Duke, who enquired (after) of the Author, with promises of kindness: however the Author would not be known.

Feb: 28. I was much concerned to settle my dear wives sister M<sup>rs</sup> Cath: Thornton in marriage, & went to Mr Purchases at Langton about it, but we did not then agree, but Mar: 9<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Gibson<sup>2</sup> going with me to Sutton we did conclude upon Terms.

<sup>1</sup> Brother. <sup>2</sup> Mr. Gibson is referred to in Mrs. Thornton's *Autobiography*, p. 249.

**1682** By God's infinite mercy I narrowly escaped drowning at Apr: 26 Doncaster, by an excessive flood, w<sup>ch</sup> hindred my going to London, & after 3 days stay there, I returned to York, & found my only Daughter there very weak.

May 26 But shee recovering I went to Oxford w<sup>th</sup> m<sup>r</sup> R Thornton (who had left Cambridge) & admitted him of University Coll: Under M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Todde fellow of that house. May 31.

June 3<sup>d</sup> From thence I went to London where the B<sup>p</sup> of London offered me the living of S<sup>t</sup> Mary Woolnoth val: 230<sup>l</sup> p An: but my obligations to the North prevailed with me to excuse my accepting it.

10 My dear Lord & Patron my L Frescheville being dead, the same B<sup>p</sup> carried me to Windsor, & admitted me to kiss the hand of the Princess Anne, lately come from Scotland with her father (who then was known to be a Papist) & her Highness to evidence her being a firm Protestant, was advised to receive the Sacrament then & to admit me, & some others to be her Chaplains in extraordinary, and I was so admitted at Windsor.

At that time I published a brief Paper, showing the errors & false Quotations of D<sup>r</sup> Burnets regalia, at which (I heard afterward) he was much discomposed.

**1683** After many tretys I married my wives Sister, M<sup>rs</sup> Cath Thornton to Tho Purchass M<sup>r</sup> of Arts: at Newton & p<sup>d</sup> 200<sup>l</sup> of her portion, w<sup>ch</sup> I lent on Laystrop security, & he settled 150<sup>l</sup> p An: jointure on her; in consid: of her portion, of w<sup>ch</sup> he was to receive the interest from that time: in which Treaty I had a great concern for her good, & met w<sup>th</sup> many dificultys.

**1683** Christopher Son, & heir of my Cousin Tho: Danby Esq: June 7 dyed suddenly, by a fall from his horse, & I imediately secured his uncle Christopher (the heir, & kept by Madam Thorntons, his Aunts Charity) & writ to London for his son Abstrupus,<sup>1</sup> whom I recommended so effectually to m L: Chancellor, that after a long suit, he recovered neer 800<sup>l</sup> p an: but first

<sup>1</sup> His name was said to have been given him because of a physical distortion, but his son was called by the same name, and also a grandson. Professor Hamilton Thompson suggests that it might be a Latinization of the name Aistrop, at least a more possible suggestion.

made a settlement by our advice on his mother, brother sisters, & father (who was not so capable of managing) & had resigned his Title to his Son.

18        The most Rev<sup>d</sup> F: in God Richard Stern my Patron, & good friend aged 87 years, having been above 20 years A Bishop of York Dyed at B<sup>p</sup> Thorp, The Dean read the office, & I carryed him to his grave on the 22<sup>d</sup>: he was a pious, learned & grave man: a lover of Scholars: prudent & well skilled in the laws: but hindred by his great age from visiting his Diocess: other wise a most excellent Bishop.

29.        I had the news of Doctor John Dolbens (B<sup>p</sup> of Rochester) nomination to be our Ar: B<sup>p</sup>.

And July 28: in a full chapter at York he was Elected; I being present, One whose favours to me were very great, though then I had seen him but once.

Aug 17        Going to York to preach my course I was unexpectedly at the funerall of D<sup>r</sup> Rob: Soresby,<sup>1</sup> the Precentor of York.

21        We resigned up the seals, & the jurisdiction, to the new Ar B<sup>p</sup> Dolben's Proxy in the Chapter at York.

24.        My Dear wife after a tedious, & dangerous labour, was delivered of two female twins both Dead, & She narrowly escaped with her life.

The same day I receiv'd a ltr from the Ar. B<sup>p</sup> of York, 1683 that without any request from me or any on my behalf he had prevailed w<sup>th</sup> the Kings Commissioners, to nominate me Precentor of York, because the Ar: B<sup>p</sup> of Canterbury told him he was sure I would not accept it, because I knew he intended to remove me to Canterbury, & because I had writ to him to give the Precentorship to another. Therefore Ar B<sup>p</sup> Dolben gave me 14 days time to deliberate, but desired me not to refuse it, for he desired my stay in York & would be my friend.

30.        After my wife began to recover & I had informed myself fully of the state of the place, I writ to Ar: B<sup>p</sup> Dolben my thankfull acceptance [of it], & owned his kindness, in proposing me, who did not think of it nor expect it.

Sep 25.        I went with the Dean & Prebends to meet the Ar:

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Robert Sorsbie or Soresby. B.D. Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Rector of Birkin 1662-4. Precentor of York minster. Died 15th Aug. 1683.

B<sup>p</sup> at Tadcaster, where he received me with a most perticular respect.

Oct : 19. I resigned My Preb : of Fenton (in w<sup>ch</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Altham<sup>1</sup> the Ar : B<sup>p</sup> Chaplain succeeded me) and by the Kings broad seal in the vacancy) was instituted Precentor & Preb of Driffield at B<sup>p</sup> Thorp, & the 23<sup>d</sup> Solemly installed into that dignity.

1684 I removed to York, to prepare my house for my family, Jan : 14. & my first residence; which I begun Febr : 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mar 19 My 2<sup>d</sup> p<sup>t</sup> of the History of Tithes (ag<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Selden) & the false assertions of D<sup>r</sup> Burnet on his regalia, & those in a tract said to be father Pauls;<sup>2</sup> was put into the press, but at the request of D<sup>r</sup> Tillotson, I Did not name D<sup>r</sup> Burnett, who was then going into france, & in disfavour at Court.

May 30. The rectory of Odington being void in Gloucestershire, & I (as Precentor) being Patron, presented my dear friend Dr Bern : Long, Arch Deacon of Cleevland to it, being neer 200<sup>f</sup> valew, & this I gave him both for his own great worth, & to requite him for his care of my brother Thornton, who having left the university Colledge, was now admitted in Magdalen, where D<sup>r</sup> Long was fellow.

Jun 29 The Rev<sup>d</sup> Father in God, Th : Smith D.D.<sup>3</sup> was consecrated B<sup>p</sup> of Carlisle at the Cathedrall of York, by Arch : B<sup>p</sup>

Dolben Nath B<sup>p</sup> of Durham, & John Lake B<sup>p</sup> of Man (Elect of Bristol) I assisting as Precentor & M<sup>r</sup> of the Ceremonies.

1684 That evening after Prayers I treated the Arch : B<sup>p</sup> & 3 Bishops with their company.

July 22 The Mayor of York, having never come to the Cathedrall since the Dean set up a Paper, claiming the seat he used to sit in [as belonging] to the Arch Deacon : I complained to my L : Chief Justice Jeffrys, who on hearing the Cause as I stated it. Ordered the L Mayor to sit on the south side of The Cathedrall

<sup>1</sup> Roger Altham. Christ Church, Oxford. B.A. 1672, M.A. 1675, D.D. 1694. Preb. York 1683-1714, Southwell 1685-1714, Ripon 1689-1714. Regius Professor of Hebrew, Oxford 1691-7 and 1703-14. Rector of Nunburnholme 1685-7; Finedon. Northants, 1688-1714.

<sup>2</sup> Father Paul. Paolo Sarpi 1552-1623. Venetian priest who carried on a vigorous controversy with Bellarmine. His chief work the *History of the Council of Trent* first printed in London 1619.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Smith. Queen's College, Oxford. M.A. Fellow and Tutor. D.D. 1660. Preb. of Carlisle 1660, Durham 1661. Dean of Carlisle 1671. Bishop 1684-1702.

(where no Paper was fixed), & he with the Gentlemen sat on the north side the very next Sunday, & so I got that difference between the Church, & the City quietly composed.

July 31 I was put into the Commission of peace (as a Justice), for the liberty of S<sup>t</sup> Peter, & took the Oaths october 14.

Sept 14 The Chapter of York chose me, & M<sup>r</sup> Burton their Procurators for the Convocation.

1684 About this time by the encouragement of the Ar: B<sup>p</sup>, I began to meet with the neighbouring clergy to discourse upon Questions, a profitable usage that I had formerly promoted, but had been interrupted for some time by my going to York.

Nov 30. My dear wife brought forth my eldest son, on Sunday Morning at 8 of the Clock who was baptized at Stongrave by M<sup>r</sup> Man Dec 4th, S<sup>r</sup> Edw: Blackett, & Dr Hicks (Dean of Worcester) being his Godfathers; & his Granmother, his Godmother : : & his name William.

Jan 18. Upon a visitation of the Dean & Chapter, by the Arch B<sup>p</sup>, a contest had risen about the Protestation pro formâ made then, but I being sent between both Partys, prevailed with the Chapter to do such things as the Ar: B<sup>p</sup> enjoined; & the Ar: B<sup>p</sup> to make his injunctions agreeable to their Priviledges.

Feb: 10. I being come to York towards London, was called up in the morning, with the sad news of K Charles his Death, by an Apoplexy: The same day The High Sheriff, & Ar: B<sup>p</sup>, the L Mayor, Governour, & Prebends met to proclaim K James the 2<sup>d</sup>, whose promise to maintain the Church of England The Ar B<sup>p</sup> published with tears, & I stopt my journey being very ill, by grief at so sudden & sad a blow to our church & nation.

Feb 23. Being recovered I went to London & then published 1685 my Epitome of the Commentary on the Com. Prayer, & after went to Oxford, where D<sup>r</sup> Long being very ill, had resigned his fellowship of Magdelin Colledge, & upon a fair examination, M<sup>r</sup> Rob: Thornton was chosen fellow there but D<sup>r</sup> Long dyed about Palm-Sunday after.

April 23. The Ar: B<sup>p</sup> offered me The Arch Deaconry of Cleeveland void by Dr Longs Death, but I excused my self & recommended my old friend M<sup>r</sup> Burton Rector of Sutton, who was

M<sup>r</sup> Thorntons Schoolmaster, & he gave that Archdeaconry to him.

May 11 I began my second residence at York, & the 14<sup>th</sup> I was elected a Procuratour for our Chapter, in K: James his convocation, w<sup>ch</sup> was opened 20<sup>th</sup>.

July 4 (I began according to) B<sup>p</sup> Dolben's injunctions to put the library of York into order.

Sep: 8. By order of the Ar: B<sup>p</sup>, & Chapter, I went with workmen to view the decays of the walls, windows, & roof of the Cathedrall, which would cost at least 3500<sup>l</sup> and I contrived a petition to the Parliament for so much a Chalder on Coles delivered at Hull Scarb: Burl: & York to repaire it: but K. James differing w<sup>th</sup> his parliament the design took no effect.

1685 Oct 15 My discourse about Excommunication came out. at the request of the B<sup>p</sup> of London, having been writ some time before.

Dec. 31 After I had strictly enquired of old men, & had Jury's to view the Glebes, & Titheable lands of my two livings of Stongrave, & Thornton, I delivered in two exact Terriers of them into the Court of York to be there recorded.

1686. Feb 12. My dear wife was delivered of a Daughter at 8 of Clock at Night, who was baptized the 16 at Stongrave by the name of mary Mr Tob: Coniers Godfather & Mrs Thornton & Mrs Denton Godmothers.

28\* I first Catechised my D Alice in y<sup>e</sup> Church of Stonegrave, she being then not five years old.

1686. Apr: 12. Arch Bishop Dolben my worthy patron and friend, rather of grief at the publick prospect, than y<sup>e</sup> small Pox dyed the 11<sup>th</sup> & was bury<sup>d</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> Cathedrall. I helping to carry him to his grave. A Prelate of great p<sup>s</sup>ence, ready parts, gratefull conversation, & wondrous generosity, he gave [his Chappel plate &] about 300 volumes to y<sup>e</sup> Library & was much lamented of all good men.

1686. 22. In y<sup>e</sup> vacancy y<sup>e</sup> Jurisdiction being resigned to y<sup>e</sup> Dean & Chapter, He, I, & Dr Watkinson were constituted heads of y<sup>e</sup> approaching Synod & convocation May 11.

\* The handwriting changes here in the Durham MS.

June 3. The Living of All Hallows Barking in Tower street in London being void by the cession of Dr Hicks Dean of Worcester the Ar. Bp Dr Sancroft of Cant freely offer'd it to me. but tho' y<sup>e</sup> valew was considerable, yet I excused myselfe with gratefull acknowledgm<sup>t</sup> of his Graces favour.

Sep : 30. Upon regulating y<sup>e</sup> Library we found many books twice & thrice over, which y<sup>e</sup> Dean & Chapter desired me to sell by Auction at y<sup>e</sup> Synod & I accounted to them afterwards for 80<sup>l</sup> & more laid out for new Books, about 30<sup>l</sup> laid out to make new shelves; bind books, & write y<sup>e</sup> Catalogues both reall & Alphabeticall so that I left y<sup>e</sup> library in exact order.

Oct. 11 Upon y<sup>e</sup> Earl of Holderness desiring to renew y<sup>e</sup> Lease of Hornby I discovered 120 Acres due to the Rectory there but lost by y<sup>e</sup> negligence of our predecessors. Yet I brought the good Earll to be willing to set out 120 Acres of good Land well bounded & entred by survey into y<sup>e</sup> Lease, owned by himselfe, his son & Grand Child, to be in lieu of y<sup>e</sup> Glebe of y<sup>t</sup> Rectory & to belong to y<sup>e</sup> Church of York.

Nov : 6 By y<sup>e</sup> assistance of y<sup>e</sup> Bp of Ely<sup>1</sup> I prevailed with the Earl of Rochester, then L<sup>d</sup> Treasurer to restore to the Dean & Chapter divers Lands in Yorkshire, & y<sup>e</sup> arrears of Rents since y<sup>e</sup> vacancy (though paid into y<sup>e</sup> Exchequer) w<sup>ch</sup> were given by y<sup>e</sup> old D : of D : of Buckingham in exchange for York place about 1626 & settled on y<sup>e</sup> Chapter in y<sup>e</sup> vacancy by Act of Parl : by w<sup>ch</sup> we got a considerable advantage.

1686. Jan : 1. About this finding y<sup>e</sup> Priest very busy in perverting common people I put out a very short & plain answer to y<sup>e</sup> plausible argum<sup>ts</sup> of a Popish priest from scripture & afterwards another answer to their plausible Argum<sup>ts</sup> from Antiquity but my name was not set to them.

Mar : 21 My Brothers<sup>2</sup> Estate being loaded with debts & no way to Clear it but a good fortune, I had proposed divers, & at last at his and his mothers request I had found one who was her father's sole Heir, & like to be worth 3000<sup>l</sup> & when Terms were almost agreed on Mr Thornton suddenly flew of & went away to

<sup>1</sup> Francis Turner. 1683 Bishop of Rochester, 1684-91 of Ely. Deprived 1691. Died 1700.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Thornton.

Oxford giveing great offence thereby to y<sup>e</sup> party & her friends, as well as to his Mother & me.

1687. Ap: 30. Upon y<sup>e</sup> frequent duells & murders in & about York by K: James souldiers I first preached 2 sermons, & then printed a short discourse against Duells w<sup>ch</sup> came out at this time.

May 10. The Dean having received a letter from y<sup>e</sup> Bp: of Chester<sup>1</sup> to Desire our Chapter to addresse y<sup>o</sup> King, I knowing the design was to encourage him to go on in oppressing the Church by flattery & vile complyance, opposed it so

1687 y<sup>b</sup> none of y<sup>e</sup> Chapter (y<sup>e</sup> Dean<sup>2</sup> excepted) would sign it.

May 23 I went to London in y<sup>e</sup> Dean of Durhams Coach & by y<sup>e</sup> way visited Peterburgh & Cambridge. At London I was desired by my L<sup>d</sup> Latimer<sup>3</sup> Chief Steward of y<sup>e</sup> Yorkshire feast to preach before them at Bow June 16 & I din'd w<sup>th</sup> them at Marchant Taylors hall after sermon, where again (by informing L<sup>d</sup> Latimer of y<sup>e</sup> Design I hindred the Bp of Chesters Addresse from passing, for which he mortally hated me, & by a fals accusation to King James (as M<sup>r</sup> Froud told me) endeavoured to Ruine me, & turn my Brother out of his place in y<sup>e</sup> Post office but not being able to prove his charge, he was forced to recant before two or 3 lords.

At this time I did with amazem<sup>t</sup> see & hear y<sup>e</sup> proceedings ag<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Fellows of Magdalen Col: in y<sup>e</sup> high Commission Court, who were not suffered to plead but they were enjoyned & to go home & to obey y<sup>o</sup> King or threatened with prs<sup>t</sup> suspension & deprivation, & to my grief I there saw 2 Protestant Bpps sit as Judges.

1688. Jan: 19. In my return by Oxford I prs<sup>t</sup>ed my Brother M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Thornton to y<sup>e</sup> Rectory of Odington w<sup>ch</sup> I had kept for him thus Long hopeing to ease his mother of the great Charge of supporting him.

1688. Aug. 22. I sent privately to y<sup>e</sup> Press a discourse con-

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Cartwright. Bishop of Chester 1686-89.

<sup>2</sup> Tobias Wickham. Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Ordained priest 1660. Prebendary and Precentor of York, and R. of Bolton Percy 1660. 1677-87 Dean of York.

<sup>3</sup> Edward Osborne, son and heir to Thos. Osborne, Earl of Danby and Duke of Leeds. He was styled Lord Latimer 1674-89. M.P. for Corfe Castle 1677; Buckingham 1678-9, 1679-80. Married Elizabeth, daughter of Simon Bennet of Beachampton, Bucks. She died 1680. He died January 1688-89.

cerning the 2<sup>d</sup> Nicene Council, & the Image worship there established, w<sup>ch</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> Kings example (& encouragmt) began now to be openly practized in many Cities of this Kingdom.

Sept 21. Expecting I should be deprived for my zeal ag<sup>t</sup> Popery I purchased a Lease at Useburn & afterwards repaired the house there for a retreat for my poor wife & Children in those dismal times, which seemd then approaching.

28. A Certain Lady being tempted to turn Papist, at her husbands request I gave her such satisfaction y<sup>t</sup> she continu'd a firm protestant & gave me many thanks.

Oct 13. I opposed the unjust suspension of M<sup>r</sup> Brigs<sup>1</sup> enjoyned (without hearing his defence) by that unjust high Commission who commanded our Chapter to do it.

Jan: 23. My unfortunate Brother Thornton not likeing to live at his Parsonage, desired my consent to his resigning it, & prayed me to give it to M<sup>r</sup> Parsons which I did (with grief for y<sup>e</sup> occation) at last agree to, & upon M<sup>r</sup> Parsons promise of being very kind to M<sup>r</sup> Thornton & gratefull to me, I sent him a presentation in February after.

Feb: 28. On Shrove-tuesday y<sup>e</sup> boys playing before the mass-house over agst the minster were first abused by the Priests, & upon their hallowing, they called in y<sup>e</sup> Irish 1689 soldiers among them who beat and wounded divers of the prentices, & allmost kill<sup>d</sup> one of them, which was revenged at y<sup>e</sup> revolution by y<sup>e</sup> Mobs pulling down a great part of that house.

1688. May 29. Comming to York to preach my Cours, this day I found many Clergy come to y<sup>e</sup> City for advice whether to Read K: James his declaration for Liberty of Conscience or no<sup>t</sup> The Dean declining to declare his sence, I was applyd to & appointed a meeting of y<sup>e</sup> Clergy at my house at York that very Evening, where met y<sup>e</sup> Chancellour, D<sup>r</sup> Watk,<sup>2</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Covell,<sup>3</sup> D<sup>r</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> 13th June 1688. Orders were issued by the High Commission Court that the names of those clergy who did not publicly read the Second Declaration of Indulgence should be sent in to the Commissioners by 25th November.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Watkinson is meant.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. John Covell 1636-1722. D.D. Master of Christ's, Cambridge, 1688. Rector of Littlebury, Essex. Preb. and Chancellor of York 1687. Wrote *Some account of the present Greek Church*, which was published just before his death in 1722, aet. 85.

Burton M<sup>r</sup> Stainsforth<sup>1</sup> & many others, & after a short time (by a singular providence not foreseen by me) came in privately a speciall messenger from London with 500 papers directed to me which contained reasons against reading the declaration, one of w<sup>ch</sup> we did read & it satisfy<sup>d</sup> all the company so well that we all resolved to refuse reading & sent out the papers all the Diocesse over, & so ordered it that few read it here.

**1688.** Augt 24 S<sup>r</sup> Walter Vavasour a popish commissiner put y<sup>e</sup> 3 questions to me as a Justice of peace which I boldly & honestly answerd to him: upon which I and all the Prebendarys were put out of the commission, & all but the Dean were turned out.

Sept 25. An order coming from the high Commissen to suspend one M<sup>r</sup> Lawson a clergyman I wou'd not appear at the Chapter nor act, for w<sup>ch</sup> I was threatened by M<sup>r</sup> Dean.

octob : 1 The King haveing promissted to call a free parl<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Jo : Kay came to York w<sup>th</sup> 1000 freeholders & Gentry but no writ came, upon which I being sent for, advised S<sup>r</sup> John & y<sup>e</sup> Gent. to petition for a free Parl: which was signed[at my house].

10th The Earl of Devonshire<sup>2</sup> & Danby came to York upon whom I waited divers times, but I was about removeing into the Country my wife being then great with Child & designed to Lye in at Newton.

9 vem 14. I went from York a few days before the Noblemen & **1688** Gent: seized upon y<sup>e</sup> City of York & so did not joyn with them, for my wife was delivered of a son within 4 days after vz : Nov : 26: he was born at 4 in the morning & his birth also hindred my being pres<sup>t</sup> at the Chapter which elected D<sup>r</sup> Lamplough Arch : Bp : of York.

9 vem 28. K : James upon the Princes Landing hoped to cajole the nation by revoking some of his bad orders & making new ones, so that whereas he designed one D<sup>r</sup> Smith, a Popish Priest Arch Bpp of York, & had actually sent him to the City with a silver Crosier (taken by y<sup>e</sup> E : of Danby & given to y<sup>e</sup> Dean & Chapter) he now nominated D<sup>r</sup> Tho : Lamplough Arch Bpp : who had been

<sup>1</sup> William Stainforth. Emmanuel College, Cambridge. D.D. Rector of St. Mary, Bishophill Senior 1668-1705. Preb. Southwell 1679. Preb. of York 1680. Vicar of Barnborough 1704-13. Rector of St. Martin's, York. Died 1713.

<sup>2</sup> William Cavendish 1641-1707. Fourth Earl and first Duke of Devonshire.

1688 Bp: of Exeter, & fled out of that City for fear (as was said) of y<sup>e</sup> Prince of Orange however I rejoiced at this, having resolved to fly into Holland (to w<sup>ch</sup> I had formerly an invitation from y<sup>e</sup> Princesse of Or:) rather than consent to Elect any Popish Bp: of w<sup>ch</sup> I was afraid all the vacancy, & tis certain K James kept y<sup>e</sup> Arch: Bpric void near 3 years for that end, but that proved (ag<sup>t</sup> his will) much for y<sup>e</sup> advantage of myselfe & my Brethren.

Dec 4 My 2<sup>d</sup> son was baptized at Stonegrave Church by M<sup>r</sup> Man & called Thomas, his Godfathers were Thomas E: of Danby (who freely offered himselfe, & writ to me to desire to stand) & Tho York Esq: of Richmond, Madam Mary Wandesford being his God mother, after which I waited on the E: of Danby 1688 at York to return him thanks:

Feb 17. As I was going to London the writ came down on Saturday night to York, & upon Sunday in the forenoon the whole City was engaged in proclaiming K: William & Q: Mary so that there was no sermon in the minster till afternoon & D<sup>r</sup> Croborow<sup>1</sup> who was to preach being abst I was desired to preach at the minster, & there I had a very great congregation my text being Rom: xvi. 17.

Mar: 1 After my coming to London I laboured to perswade the Bp: of Chichester<sup>2</sup> & Peterb:<sup>3</sup> my old friends to take the oaths, but had no success, & this day the Princesse of Denmark introduced me to Kisse the Queen's hand publickly as she came from Chappell, who received me very Graciously.

I had then in the presse my first part of the Roman Forgeries for y<sup>e</sup> 3 first Centurys which came not out till Mich After.

Mar. 18. I returned home by Cambridge, & had a very wet & bad journey down, by w<sup>ch</sup> I fell ill, but blessed be God came safe home to Newton the 27th.

About this time I writ two pamphlets for y<sup>e</sup> Governm<sup>t</sup> one called a modest vindication &c, the other an Apology for the oath of

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Crowborough. B.A. Queens', Cambridge, 1668, M.A. 1671, D.D. 1683, Fellow 1668-79. Preb. of York 1670-90. Preb. of Southwell 1678. Rector of Barton-in-Fabis, Notts. Vicar of St. Mary's, Nottingham, 1686-90. Archdeacon of Nottingham 1680-90. Non-Juror.

<sup>2</sup> John Lake. Bishop of Chichester 1685-89.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas White. Bishop of Peterborough 1685-90. Died 1698.

Allegiance, but concealed my name being satisfyed with the hopes of uniteing all the Churches friends.

1689. Jul: 4 The Presbyterians hoped by y<sup>e</sup> dissent of some great Churchmen to gain their point, & printed 2 books writ by m<sup>r</sup> David Clarkson a learned man deceased (who had been tutor to D<sup>r</sup> Tillotson) of them against Diocesan Episcopacy which was sent to D<sup>r</sup> Maurice to answer,<sup>1</sup> the other ag<sup>t</sup> Liturgys which my friends recommended to me & I began [now] to reply to it.

19 I was again restored a justice of peace by K: W<sup>m</sup>: after a years suspension & this day took the oaths in S<sup>t</sup> Peters sessions.

Sep 12 All my children were ill in a kind of small Pox but so gently treated that in a very short time they recovered.

19 Having met Ar: Bp Lamplough y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> at Tadcaster upon his first coming to y<sup>e</sup> Cathedrall we met him proces-sionaliter at the great west door, & sung him up to the Choir.

About this time the Bp: of Chichester, Dr Lake, by mistake supposing me the Author of a pamphlet, stiled, a letter to a Bp: writ an angry answer to that book & sent it to me. I replyd to his argum<sup>ts</sup>, & rectify<sup>d</sup> his error of that books being mine, upon which I had a second letter to w<sup>ch</sup> I allso answer<sup>d</sup>, but his death soon after put a stop to this controversy.

Nov: 7 The Convocation met at York where I sat as procurator for the Chapter & A: Bp Lamplough was there in person.

27 My Daughter Alice was confirm<sup>d</sup> at the minster by y<sup>e</sup> Ar: Bp: She being then towards 9 years old.

In this moneth I had finish<sup>d</sup> my first part of the History of Liturgies against Clarkson in about 4 moneths time & began my second part which was finish<sup>d</sup> in like space (vz) about Ap: 3. 1690.

1690. Mar 27 A new Convocation being called was this day open<sup>d</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> Ar: B: & I appeared again as procurator for the Chapter.

Ap 3. Our organ being in great decay I moved y<sup>e</sup> Ar: Bp to give us a new one, which he refused haveing paved the Choir with marble set up new rails & given hangings to the Alter but

<sup>1</sup> Henry Maurice, D.D., wrote *A Defence of Diocesan Episcopacy* in answer to Clarkson. It was published in 1691.

he offered to be at one half of the Charge If I wou<sup>d</sup> undertake the other, so that I was employ<sup>d</sup> in getting subscriptions & had got above 200<sup>l</sup> subscribed by the gentry & Clergy (myselfe giveing 10<sup>l</sup>) before 6 moneths were expired, so that within less than a years time M<sup>r</sup> Smith the organ maker set up the pres<sup>t</sup> organ & had 400<sup>l</sup> for it, 200<sup>l</sup> from me & 200<sup>l</sup> more besides fiting & painting the Case from B<sup>p</sup> Lamplough<sup>h</sup> Executor. I had great trouble in this, but I hope that Church finds the benefits of my pains.

1690. Jun 15. A learned & moderate Presbyterian friend of mine who had lost a good liveing in 1662, & lived peaceably till now was by me persuaded at last to take Episcopall orders from Tho: Barlow D:D: Bp of Lincoln, & he came a way very well satisfyd, being now a good Conformist & I have since been instrumentall to prefer him.

Aug 19. Ar: Bp: Lamplough visited the Dean & Chapter: & y<sup>e</sup> Dean being abst I read the protestation, that he shoud visit us according to y<sup>e</sup> form of a composition & so he did.

Oct 11. One Mr S: Bold a minister in the Isle of Purbeck who had subscribed the Comon prayer & held two livings & joyned with fanaticks & papists in K: James his time to regulate corporations, writ a frivoulous answer to my Book of Liturgys, which I reply<sup>d</sup> to in 3 or 4 sheets & then slighted him.

Mar 14. 1690. This day was put on a noble crimson velvet cloth with rich embroidery & Gold fringe upon the Alter at York, presented & sent by an unknown hand but I hope God will reward this Alms done in secret, very openly, it being a seasonable & liberall gift.

1691. Mar. 27. After I had quietly received, & carefully paid the hospitalls & poor with y<sup>e</sup> Lady Lumlys Charity Rent I was at length interrupted by a Coachman who had bribed S<sup>r</sup> Anthony Mayn.<sup>1</sup> This forced me to sue this Coachman & S<sup>r</sup> Anth:

<sup>1</sup> Sir Anthony Mayne was a son of Sir John Mayne who in 1657 was made a trustee of Lady Lumley's charity within six years of her death. As early as 1679 Comber had to sue Sir Anthony for a misappropriation of the funds of the charity. The sum concerned had been saved out of the improved rents and had been designed for repairs and other uses. The suit went on for several years and wasted over £40. The Court of Chancery made the intruders (who were sued with Sir Anthony) to yield up what they had received and made Sir Anthony resign his trust. Now that he was leaving Yorkshire for Durham, Comber got the affairs of the charity put into good order.

Mayn a Feoffee for the s<sup>d</sup> Charity with divers men of Sinington who Joyned agt me. But the Chancery upon a full & fair hearing at my Charge & desire forced them to quit y<sup>e</sup> receipt, & compel'd S<sup>r</sup> Anth: to resign the trust & because I was to leave that Country I got a decree to settle those Charities in 6 or 7 of the Chief Gentry near Thornton who might oversee it for the future & got my accounts allowed & my selfe discharged, but this suit depended 3 or 4 years, & wasted above 40 pound that I had saved out of the improvem<sup>t</sup> of the hospitall rents for repairs & other uses, which I was much troubled at but coud not help it.

Ap 25 I having prepared to go to London the 27<sup>th</sup> an unexpected Letter came from the L: Marqu: of Caermarthen to give me notice of a great preferm<sup>t</sup> the King had given me, upon his & the Ar: Bps recommendation. But I did not know certainly it was y<sup>e</sup> Deanery of Durham, till I came to London, & finding my old friend D<sup>r</sup> Greenvil had not taken y<sup>e</sup> oaths, & was gone to K: James, & must be put out, I did after speaking with y<sup>e</sup> Ar: Bp: & my L. Nottingham<sup>1</sup> at last accept it.

May 3. I was introduced by the marqu: of Carmarthen to kisse the Qu: hand for this Deanery & her majesty exprest great satisfaction in the K: Choice of me & pressed the dispach of my seals so that y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> I was instituted by the Bp: of Durhā and tho I had made no promise to resign any of my prefermts yet on y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> I freely resigned my Parsonage of Stonegrave in favour of Mr Denton my wifes Uncle but excused myselfe for a while from resigning my precentorship having no house at Durham to go to, & divers sums of money due to me at York from which place I required six moneths to remove & then I woud regularly resign at martinmass, which was the end of the year there.

5. Ar: Bp: Lamplough dyed & upon the news of it (at London) D<sup>r</sup> John Sharp (who was suspended by K: James) was nominated by K: W<sup>m</sup> to succeed Ar: Bp of York, whom I congratulated upon his promotion. This change of Ar Bps stopt my resignation of Stonegrave from being accepted then, but I put Mr Denton in full possession of all profits immediately & only at his

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Finch. Seoond Earl of Nottingham (1647-1730). Secretary at War 1688-93; Secretary of State 1702-4; President of the Council 1714-16.

request & by the consent of the Ar: Bp of York I kept y<sup>e</sup> title of it.

May 28. I returned safe to York (blessed be God) & found my  
1692 Mother there, to whom I imparted the news that I had  
got a liveing in northampton-shire for her son M<sup>r</sup> Robert  
Thornton.

Jun 15 I was installed Dean of Durham by D<sup>r</sup> Grey, & Received  
y<sup>e</sup> oaths of all the prebendaries then p<sup>r</sup>st & made a banquet  
at night: 21<sup>th</sup> I read prayers in y<sup>e</sup> Cathedrall giving my assent &  
consent, & having viewed the Deanery house, which was in great  
decay, I settled my affairs & went back to York 24<sup>th</sup> when I began  
my last moneth of residence Aug: 3 & prepard to remove my  
family to Durham & at the same time began to repair the Deanery  
house.

Aug: 22 M<sup>r</sup> Robt Thornton (having exchanged his living in  
Northamptonshire for Boldon in Bp'rick) came down to  
1692 me at York & I went with him to Durham & he was in-  
stituted Sep 3<sup>d</sup> & Inducted 5<sup>th</sup> and afterwards he lived with  
me till his death.

Oct 14. My whole family came to Durham, where the Deanery  
being repairing I was forced to borrow Dr Brevints house  
to live in & continued there 9 moneths or more, the same night  
Madam Greenvill wife to my Predecessor was buried. I offerd to  
pay half the charge of her funerall expences but her friends would  
not accept it.

21. I began to keep my first residence at Durham.  
1691 Dr Burnet now Bp of Salsbury having a promise of my  
Dec 19. precentorship for D<sup>r</sup> Fall a Scotchman had exasperated  
the Arch: Bp of Cant & the Queen agt me, by divers fals  
storys & pretended I would not resign my Precentorship at all. But  
after the Ar: Bp of York & my L: President had cleared me to  
both, I as I allways intended did first resign that place before a  
publick notary, & gave notice of it to y<sup>e</sup> Ar: Bp of York, & then  
he requiring me to do it to his Chancelor, as soon as his commission  
came down to empower him to acpt it, I went to York & Jan 19  
& resigned it more formally, & tho I had the title till now, yet I  
never did ask or receive one penny of the Rents or profits after  
November 11<sup>th</sup> & I generously refused to take 80' for a fine of the

best lease belonging to the Precentorship out of which one life was  
gon 5 years, yet I left it to my successor who got (I believe) 100' &  
above for it, & I refused 80' as too mean a value, & because it would  
be an ill precedent so that I deserved not that usage which I had  
from his friend Bp Burnet whose old grudge to me  
1692 for discovering his errors on this occation did revive &  
show itselfe.

1692. Ap. After Easter as Dean of Durham I held the Courts in  
our Mannors of Elvet & Crossgate in Durham, & of  
Pittington & Shields, Billingham & Elvet: M<sup>r</sup> Middleton<sup>1</sup> being our  
deputy steward.

24. Upon the Death of D<sup>r</sup> Wood Bp of Lichfield,<sup>2</sup> was  
installed Dr: Mountague into y<sup>e</sup> 11 prebend & M<sup>r</sup> Thcop: Pickering<sup>3</sup> into y<sup>e</sup> 4th (which D<sup>r</sup> Mountague resigned) but I was  
then abst on the following occation. Having used many endeavours  
to marry my wives brother M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Thornton without success, at  
last I had agreed to proposealls of a Lady with 2800' fortune in money  
& went over to newton to acquaint his mother with it who was well  
pleased at it as a means to clear off all the debts of y<sup>e</sup> family, & leave  
her, as well as y<sup>e</sup> young gentleman and his Lady a handsome  
sustenance.

June 4. But alas he got a fever, & after he was somew<sup>t</sup> recovered  
a 2<sup>d</sup> relapse by going to preach at his Living of Boldon,  
on whit Sunday & giving the sacram<sup>t</sup> which proved fatall to him,  
for in ten days time after violent sickness he departed this life &  
was buried in the nine Altars (of the Cathedrall) at Durham where  
a monum<sup>t</sup> is erected to his memory, he being a gentleman very well  
bred a good scholar & obliging to all was extreamly lamented by all  
who knew him, but especially by his dear mother as being her only  
son, & the last heir male of a very ancient family, in  
1692 whom that estate had been at least 400 years. I shall not  
mention how very kind I had allways been to him in his  
life and what I have done for him since his death. God and his

<sup>1</sup> John Middleton, Esq. Counsellor at Law. Recorder of Durham 1696-1702. Buried in St. Nicholas, Durham, 21st February 1702-3.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Thomas Wood. Rector of Whickham 1635-71. Preb. of Durham 1660. Dean 1663, and Bishop of Lichfield 1671. Died 18th April 1692.

<sup>3</sup> Theophilus Pickering, 1663-1710. Fellow of Sidney, Cambridge. Chaplain to Bishop Crewe. Preb. of Durham 1692. Rector of Gateshead 1695, Sedgefield 1705.

friends know the particulars, & from the latter I desire nothing but acknowledgm<sup>t</sup> hopeing for a reward from the former from whom I have received all my power to do good.

Jun 18 The north side Rooms of y<sup>e</sup> Deanery being mean & in great decay I had pulled them down for 20 yards in length & new built 2 long rooms & two very good chambers w<sup>th</sup> a large staircase & covered the same with Lead which cost me at least 300<sup>l</sup> besides furnishing & adorning. And now I came & first lay at y<sup>e</sup> Deanry, to w<sup>ch</sup> my wife & whole family came oct: 13 & then I had repaid & furnishd the whole house which cost me many 100<sup>l</sup> more.

Jul 23 At the Assizes at Durham I was first put into the Commission of peace, but did not take the oaths & act till the Christmas sessions after Jan: 15 about which time I was allso made a commissioner for the Royall ayd.

Aug 13. Upon Mr Thornton's death the Estate of East Newton & Laystrop descended upon his two sisters, Alice my wife & Catherine the wife of M<sup>r</sup> Tho: Purchas, but alas he & his mother for his education had contracted 1200<sup>l</sup> which she cou'd not pay, & the poor Gentleman deceas<sup>d</sup> was never possessed of any estate & left not assets. And tho M<sup>r</sup> Purchas & I were not lyable to pay them, yet for my mother's security & the honour of the family we undertook this 1200<sup>l</sup> debt & 250<sup>l</sup> Charg<sup>d</sup> upon Laystrop by m<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Thornton my father in Law & compounded a pretended debt allso of his of 800<sup>l</sup> settled on his sisters in case he died w<sup>th</sup> out issue male for 250<sup>l</sup> which was in all 1700<sup>l</sup> tho both M<sup>r</sup> Purchas & I lost our wives portions which were both 1500<sup>l</sup> by entring on the Land out of which they were secured.

Now we agreed on these conditions to take on us all this debt & losse, First that madam Thornton shou'd be cleared of these debts, & resign up her joynture for an annuall paym<sup>t</sup> of 90<sup>l</sup> p Annū clear, 2<sup>dly</sup> that the Estate of Norton Laystrop & Middleham (which was allso to fall to our wives after Madam

Thornton's death) shou'd be divided by consent between 1692 us two, & settled by decree on us & our heirs, & upon a meeting of our referrees East Newton was to one share & Laystrop & Middleham set for another, there was not much difference in the value of the Land but on pretence of a large house & some wood on East newton share that was valued at 500<sup>l</sup> more (which

indeed was but 250<sup>l</sup> for me to pay because half the over priz<sup>a</sup> share was my own) but giving me y<sup>e</sup> choice, I fixed on newton share, & tho I soon found the mistake they forced me to pay 500<sup>l</sup> more than M<sup>r</sup> Purchas of M<sup>r</sup> Thornton's debt, and so I pay<sup>d</sup> 850<sup>l</sup> & he only 350<sup>l</sup> (where as I should have payd only 725<sup>l</sup> & he 475<sup>l</sup>) but I woud not for a small matter hinder such a settlem<sup>t</sup>, so that all things were agreed & the writings sealed at Newton Sept: 30<sup>th</sup>: 1692.

I shall note that I did in a manner purchase this estate being not above 140<sup>l</sup> p Annū which at 20 y: purchase was worth but 2800<sup>l</sup> & I paid 1100<sup>l</sup> Debt of the father & son & lost 750<sup>l</sup> my wives portion & have laid out & must do 250<sup>l</sup> more in repairs, which is 2100<sup>l</sup> besides the Deduction of Madam Thorntons joynure of 45<sup>l</sup> p Annū clear valued at 7 times 50<sup>l</sup> vz 350<sup>l</sup>, & above, 100<sup>l</sup> more which I paid for M<sup>r</sup> Thorntons private debts &c 2550<sup>l</sup>. Yet I am very well content in hopes by this means I served a good family.

**1692** I received an order from the E. of Dorset<sup>1</sup> L<sup>d</sup> Chamber-Aug 30. lain to wait in October as one of their majesties Chaplains in ordinary, but by my intrest with y<sup>e</sup> Queen I was excused till Aprill following.

Nov. 26. By y<sup>e</sup> desire of Ar: Bp Tillotson I writ & sent up an answer to a virulent Libell ag<sup>t</sup> their majesties called Great Britains just Complaint, said to be writ by one S<sup>r</sup> James Montgomery,<sup>2</sup> which answer was printed by his graces order without my name.

Feb 2 After a suit begun by me, Arch-Deacon Booth, & Mr Clayton (all successors to Dr Greenvill), ag<sup>t</sup> m<sup>r</sup> w<sup>m</sup> Wilkinson<sup>3</sup> of Durham who on p'tence of a mortgage from y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dr Greenvill had received divers rents due to us & accruing after the Michaelmas which follow<sup>d</sup> his deprivation, & tho I cou'd have proved divers 100<sup>l</sup>s which he had so received (at the Chapters request) I

<sup>1</sup> Charles Sackville, sixth Earl of Dorset, 1638-1706. Baron Cranfield and Earl of Middlesex 1675. *Poems*, 1701.

<sup>2</sup> Sir James Montgomery, tenth baronet of Skelmorlie. A zealous Whig who visited Holland in connection with the invitation to William of Orange. He was one of the chief founders of "The Club," a political association. William offended him and he changed sides, plotted against the Government and wrote the pamphlet *Great Britain's Just Complaint*. He died at St. Germains in 1694.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. William Wilkinson had various monetary transactions with Dean Granville and seems to have driven hard bargains with him. See *Works and Letters of Dear Granville*, Surtees Soc., vol. 37, *passim*.

referred it Dr Erys<sup>1</sup> a prebend here & m<sup>r</sup> ward rector of Stocksley,<sup>2</sup> & was content for peace sake to take 60<sup>l</sup> in money & releases to all the tenants who had paid me & given him ignorantly security to pay him.

Mar 8. About this I took up (with the Chapters consent) 130 Acres in Bear-Park fenced them well & planted 1500 Oakes & 500 Ashes there for the good of posterity.

1693. Mar 26. I came to London just as the King went of for Holland & read prayers before the Queen the first time from Ap: 1<sup>st</sup> to Apr: 15 in which waiting I preached twice in the royall Chappell before her majesty v<sup>z</sup> April 7 & 9 & returned safe to Durham may 12.

Jun 13. Our bells being bad & all out of order & the great bell broke, I sent to London for a Bel-founder, & we agreed with him to cast & hang 8 new bells w<sup>ch</sup> cost us near 300<sup>l</sup> to w<sup>ch</sup> the Bp did not contribute anything tho requested by me.

Aug 3. By this time I had payd 800<sup>l</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Robert Thornton's debts & was obliged to build a new tenant's house at newton w<sup>ch</sup> cost me near 100<sup>l</sup> more to keep the mannor house clear for Madam Thornton.

Nov 24. Dr Greenvil had begun to sue Dean Sudburys Executors C<sup>p</sup>t Tempest<sup>3</sup> & the Lady Sudbury<sup>3</sup> & (I was assured) they had offer<sup>d</sup> 550<sup>l</sup> for a composition to him a little before he went off, but that agreem<sup>t</sup> breaking & all these delapidations falling upon me to make good I renewed the suit, but at the request of friends & for the Love of peace I was content to take 110<sup>l</sup> in full discharge of the said dilapidations w<sup>ch</sup> have & will cost me at least 500<sup>l</sup>: so averse was I allways to suits If I could avoid them even with great disadvantage.

1693 I sunk a Cole pit & ma<sup>d</sup> a drein in Bear park & found Dec 9. very good Coles but my operator breaking & the sale proving bad after two years fruitlesse attempt I lay it in again, loosing 60<sup>l</sup> at least by this tryall.

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Eyre, Prebendary of Durham 1690-94.

<sup>2</sup> Stokesley.

<sup>3</sup> Dean Sudbury left his property to his nephew, Sir John Sudbury of Eldon (created a baronet 1685). The dean's niece married Mr. William Tempest of Old Durham, M.P. for the City of Durham 1678-79, 1680 and 1689-90. He died 1699. His wife was the sister of Sir John Sudbury.

Mar. 9. My dear wife who formerly received 24' p<sup>r</sup> annū out of Laystrop for her private expence, now that was gon, I purchas<sup>d</sup> a farm at Ferry hill for her use of Capt Tempest for 460<sup>r</sup> (in Mony) & above 40<sup>l</sup> in repairs & charges w<sup>ch</sup> gives 36<sup>l</sup> per annū clear & is now paid to my said dear wife.

**Anno 1694.** Aug 6. Finding the inconveniency of a journey to London in the spring by y<sup>e</sup> Queens favour I got my moneth changed to August & went up to wait a 2<sup>d</sup> time then, in my time happen<sup>d</sup> a fast day Aug: 29 on which I preach'd before her Majesty on 3 or 4 days notice upon Psal: 122. 6 yet by her Majesties expres command, (after many excuses made) I was forced to print that sermon. At the same time was printed my 2<sup>d</sup> & 3<sup>r</sup> parts of the Roman forgeries. I returned not well to york Sept: 11<sup>th</sup> & came with my whole family from Newton to Durham Sep<sup>t</sup>: 22 & began my residence Sep: 29, tho my health was then very bad.

**1694** According to an agreement made when I was at London Oct 7. my niece Mary Comber was married to one M<sup>r</sup> Boucher a distiller a man of a very good estate & considerable trade.

Nov 2. Mr James Finny<sup>1</sup> was by me installed by his proxy M<sup>r</sup> Pickering into the 3<sup>d</sup> prebend being void by the death of D<sup>r</sup> S. Eyres october 23.

Dec. 7. I writ an Epitome of my two large books of tyths by way of Diologue for common use, but it is not yet printed.

About this time we had the news of the Death of D<sup>r</sup> Tillotson the worthy Arch-Bpp of Canterbury Nov: 22.

Dec 28 And on New years day we received the more deplorable News, that the best of women, & my most honoured M<sup>rs</sup> our Dear Queen dy'd Decem: 28 of the small pox, to the inexpressible loss of this Church & nation, & the grief of all good men.

Jan 5. On the next Sunday I preach<sup>d</sup> a sermon proper for the occation in the Cathedrall which was put in deep mourning, & on mar: 5 when her funeralls were celebrated, I made a speech there at 4 o'clock prayers to bewail our invaluable loss.

<sup>1</sup> James Fynney or Finney. St. John's, Oxford. D.D. Vicar of Kirklington; 1680 Preb. of York; 1690 Rector of Long Newton. Preb. of Durham 1694. Rector of Ryton 1706-24. Died 1724.

1695 By the death of D<sup>r</sup> Brevint D of Lincoln the 10 preb Jun 8 was vacant & given to Dr Adams<sup>1</sup> whose 6 preb: was thereupon given to D<sup>r</sup> Dobson<sup>2</sup> both of which were then installed by me.

1695 I having last year sunk through a hard rock at Newton July 2. & found a deep well of pure water, which y<sup>t</sup> house never had before, I was perswaded to try for Cole there but without any success or encouragem<sup>t</sup>.

3. I now had finish<sup>d</sup> the new parsonage house at Thornton which I built from the ground, & bought a piece of freeland to lay to it for an orchard, enclosing that with y<sup>e</sup> Garth & gardens with new walls, the whole costing me above 200<sup>l</sup>.

Nov 22. The first cause of mine which ever came to a tryall was now heard in the Exchequer, where I cast one Widow Atkinson who had detained tythes due to me at Useburn, & besides the valew of my Tythes, in consideration of my manifest wrong, the Court gave me 40<sup>l</sup> Costs, I used all means to get this willfull woman to refer this, as I had done all other causes, but no friend could perswade her to yeild. I was sorry to hear her obstinacy cost her 120<sup>l</sup> for what she might have paid with 5<sup>l</sup>, & were it not that I secured my title, I got cruentam victoriam loosing 20<sup>l</sup> besides my large costs of 40<sup>l</sup>, so that this success will not make me have any better oppinion of suing then I had before.

1695 The 7th Prebend being void by y<sup>e</sup> death of M<sup>r</sup> Rich : Sep : 26. Knightly,<sup>3</sup> this day I installed M<sup>r</sup> John Smith, before sacrist of this Church, into that Preb.

Nov : 8. my Book of the 3 offices nov : 5, Jan : 30, & may 29 was now in the presse & I had aliso review<sup>d</sup> & corrected & in some places enlarged my Folio on the Com : Prayer, but the want of paper forced me to decline another edition of y<sup>t</sup> volume.  
 \*Jan 16 For encouraging a woollen manufacture here, the

<sup>1</sup> FitzHerbert Adams. D.D. Lincoln, Oxford. Preb. of Durham 1685. Rector of Washington 1683. Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, 1685. Vice-Chancellor, Oxford, 1695 to 1697. Died June 1719.

<sup>2</sup> Henry Dobson, D.D. Magdalen College, Oxford. Rector of Boldon 1692. Preb. of Durham 1695. Died 1717.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Knightley, M.A. Had the livings of Charwelton 1677 and Aston-le-Walls 1673. Resigned Aston 1688, when he became Vicar of Byfield, Northants, 1688. Preb. of Durham 1675. Died 1695. Buried at Byfield.

\* Change of handwriting here in Durham copy.

chapter bought 12 Wheels & sent 12 girls to the spinning school, newly set up; & now at Sessions (by my persuasions) the justices gave the master 50' of Arrears in hand, & articled with him to teach, & keep 14 poor girls to spin, & read & to have 40' p an due to y<sup>m</sup> from the B<sup>p</sup> of Durham, & after one year to send y<sup>m</sup> out well taught to spin finding y<sup>m</sup> work at home, & take in 14 more but some ill men laboured afterwards to pervert y<sup>e</sup> usefull Charity & ruined my good design at last.

18 I contracted with the Lady Gerard's<sup>1</sup> steward for a free-hold farm at Nether Dunsfurth, w<sup>ch</sup> he asserted worth above 60' p an: but afterwards I discovered 20<sup>mks</sup> p an was payable out of it to a library Keep :<sup>2</sup> at Durham; & 3 Alms people at B<sup>p</sup> Aukland settled by B<sup>p</sup> Cossens, for w<sup>ch</sup> they covenanted to pay all arrears & too abate me 20 y. purchass: so it cost me neer 900' besides the repairs w<sup>ch</sup> will be 50' at least.

1695 I appeared at a Convocation at York for myself, & as Feb 18. Proxy for the Chapter & insisted on our exemption from y<sup>t</sup> jurisdiction w<sup>ch</sup> I protested against in Scriptis.

27 My journey to London began on w<sup>ch</sup> we heard the first news of the plot to kill King W<sup>m</sup>.

Mar 9<sup>th</sup> The D: of Leeds introduced me to kiss the King's hand at Kensington, who thanked me for the Service I had done him, this was the first time I ever saw him, & went on purpose at this season to wait upon him in person.

16. My waiting begun & I preached twice at the Chappell Royall, visited the Princess of Den: & D: of Gloucester,<sup>3</sup> but fell very ill 3 days before my waiting was out, leaving D<sup>r</sup> Mills in my stead.

1696. I came so sick from London, y<sup>t</sup> I was in great April 3. Danger by y<sup>e</sup> way, & after I came hence fell into a Dangerous feavour, so that for a month my life was feared: but by God's mercy, my Wives care & D<sup>r</sup> Nicolsons skil I recovered, & being very weak w<sup>th</sup> great dificulty got to Durham June 4.

<sup>1</sup> Mary, eldest daughter of Bishop Cosin of Durham, married Sir Gilbert Gerard, M.P. for Northallerton 1661-85. High Sheriff of Durham 1665-75. Died 1687.

<sup>2</sup> Upkeep. The library was Cosin's Library at Durham.

<sup>3</sup> William, Duke of Gloucester, son of Princess Anne, born 1689, died 1700.

In my absence upon the death of Dr Jessop<sup>1</sup> Mr Jo: Bows<sup>2</sup> was installed into y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Prebend And he was the 7<sup>th</sup> made, or removed, since I was admitted Dean.

July: 17. On the Death of Mr W<sup>m</sup> Davison,<sup>3</sup> Mr Cuthberts was admitted steward of our courts, & his patent signed in Chapter.

Aug: 25. The B<sup>p</sup> of Durham visited the Chapter & some heats arising, I laboured to allay y<sup>m</sup>, & after divers meetings ordered it so; y<sup>t</sup> all differences were privately composed, & the visitation had no effect, being after 3 months discharged by letter, it cost us above 20<sup>l</sup> in a very scarce time & no manner of good was done by it.

Sep 10. With the Precentour Mr Miller<sup>4</sup> I began to place the books in the new library,<sup>5</sup> but expecting more to come in, we could not be very exact nor did we make a Catalogue. This summer the wooden bridge<sup>6</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> had put us to great Charge & consumed much of our best wood (w<sup>ch</sup> grew scarce) was built anew of hewn stone, a work of great good, to the publick & an ease to our successors.

Dec 1<sup>th</sup> Our Audit ended where I receded from my Right in 2 considerable points to my great Dammage, only to prevent factions, & unseasonable contests in ill times among us, but tis not unusuall for me to buy peace.

Jan 21 I began to make my collections for y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & last part of the Common Prayers, being a discourse on the offices of Ordination, w<sup>ch</sup> I finished this same year Sept: 2<sup>d</sup>, but the scarcity of Paper delayed the printing it for neer a year: So that it was not published till Michaelmas next: 1697.

1696 Mar: 11 We purchased & put into Durham Library<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Constans, or Constantine, Jessop, Magdalen, Oxford. D.D. 1685. Rector of Brington, Northants. Preb. of Durham 1686. Died 1695.

<sup>2</sup> John Bowes, D.D. Preb. of Durham 1696. Rector of Elwick 1701; Bishop Wearmouth 1715. Died 1721.

<sup>3</sup> Wm. Davison was acting as official to Dean Granville in 1680. Eldest son of Ralph Davison, barrister-at-law, and Recorder of Durham 1691-96. Died 1696. John Cuthbert was Recorder of Durham 1702-6, when he became Recorder of Newcastle.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Miller. There is a reference to him in Granville *Letters*, Part II, Surtees Soc., p. 134. His name was Milner, see note, p. lxi.

<sup>5</sup> The Chapter Library.

<sup>6</sup> The footbridge near the spot where Prebends' Bridge now stands.

all the classic Authors in 8vo cum notis variorum. My sermon on Psal. cxliv. ult. preached at this Cathedrall Dec: 2 before a very large audience was printed & published at, or about this time.

**1697** Aprill 12 We began to repair the fountain raising & new casting the cistern, mending the pipes & repairing the house, to w<sup>ch</sup> formerly B<sup>p</sup> Cosen had contributed, but this B<sup>p</sup> would contribute nothing. This year I restored also 13<sup>l</sup>. 6<sup>s</sup>. 8<sup>d</sup> to the poor out of a farm at Dunsfurth, granted by B<sup>p</sup> Cosen, w<sup>ch</sup> had been many years detained by the said B<sup>ps</sup> heirs, & upon my purchass of it I setled y<sup>t</sup> payment.

21. The news came of my Brother Purchasses death who had broke a vein as was believed by riding 2 miles, & preaching at his cure every sunday, & had long spit blood he left 3 Sons & 2 Daughters.

**1698** Mar 3. About this time divers lands mixed with freehold in Croxdale, & Mainsfurth were surveyed, butted,<sup>1</sup> & bounded, & owned by the lease-holders to belong to the Church w<sup>ch</sup> was moved first & carried on by me, with the chapters consent.

Aug: 11. I answered a Jesuit named F:S who had writ against m<sup>r</sup> Rogers<sup>2</sup> explication of the 39 Articles, & sent him the papers but did not print them.

Sep 19. We met at Thornton to settle the Charitis there, in the new Trustees & took in the accounts untill that time.

21. I got a dangerous cold w<sup>ch</sup> took away my voice & brought continuall defluxuns upon me all this winter, & about Christmas I was extream Ill, but relieved by bleeding at the Emerods, yet the diffluxions troubled me long after.

Nov 5. The organ at Durham was drest & divers stops made good, & all new voiced by m<sup>r</sup> Smith nephew to the maker of it.

<sup>1</sup> Butted means a head rigg or furrow made at the top and bottom of a field for drainage purposes. These furrows were made transversely to the rest of the furrows in the field.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Rogers of Horningsea (the modern Horningsheath), in Suffolk, published an *Explication of the Thirty-nine Articles* in 1585 and dedicated it to Archbishop Whitgift.

23. M<sup>r</sup> Marris presented (by my interest) divers choice  
raritys, & medals to our library at Durham.

26. At the Audit we gave 20<sup>l</sup> to promote D<sup>r</sup> Hicks his Saxon  
Grammer, & 20<sup>l</sup> to D<sup>r</sup> Bray to buy books, for the use of  
the Clergy, w<sup>ch</sup> under him (as Suffragan Bishop) were going to  
Convert the Indians in our plantations in America.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>. This Audit came in the Account for the repairs of all  
the Gutters, & leads round the Choir of the Cathedrall,  
w<sup>ch</sup> was begun last year, & now very well finished.

It appears from the Inscription on D<sup>r</sup> Comber's Tombstone that  
He died Nov<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1699.

## Brevis Narratio Vitae Meae

*Semita Brevis, non iterum conculcanda; sive brevis narratio vitae  
meae*

**1644.** Thomas Comber filius natu minimus Jacobi Comber et Mariae uxoris ejus in mundo primo spiritum trahebat, Dei gratia, Martii 23<sup>o</sup>, in vico Westerham, Com. Cantii. Pater meus erat civis Londinensis (aromat : fratern :) ex antiquâ et non ignobili familiâ de Barkham in agro Sussexiensi. Ex calendario apparet me natum fuisse Martii 20, et baptizatum Mar. 23.

Mater mea erat filia Briani Burton et Aliciae Asten, *alias* Austen, uxoris ejus. Prius nupta erat Eduardo Hamden, in eodem vico Westerham, ubi et pater ejus habitabat. At illo mortuo et unâ filiâ (ex matre meâ 20 annos haud excedente) relictâ, nomine Mariae, denuo nupta est patri meo, anno [blank].

Fratres habui tres, quorum unus tantum superstes, Jacobus, natu me major, civis Londinensis (ex fraternitate Mercatorum scissoruin), qui in matrimonio accepit Hannam Harper, ortam ex agro Cestriensi.

Sorores itein mihi duae, Maria predictae matris, non patris filia, juncta patrueli meo Thomae Puckle, et Anna, ex eodem patre et matre nata, puella nescio an ob venustatem vel ingenium magis laudanda, at itcrum denata aetatis suea 8<sup>o</sup>. an. Apr 3<sup>o</sup>. An. Dñi 1660.

**1648.** Piores 4 anni vitae meae frequentioribus morbis comitati sunt, adeo ut saepissime morti proximus providentiâ Divinâ et curâ Dñi Bray, pastoris ecclesiae nostrae liberatus sum.

**1650.** Cum 6<sup>m</sup> vitae annum agebam Parentes me tradiderunt doctissimo et pio preceptor, Thomae Walter nomine, ad Latinam linguam discendam, sub cuius auspiciis fundamenta prima tam religionis quam doctrinae in me posita erant.

**1653.** Hoc tempore Londinum appuli, per tres menses versatus

sum in ludo literario Johannis Evans: deinde redii ad priorem amantissimum praceptorum.

**1655.** Circa annum 10<sup>m</sup> vitae meae eruptus ab antiquo preceptorum Annum consumpsi, 1<sup>o</sup> in scholâ publicâ apud Sevenokes, com: Cantii, sub Johanni Hoopero, deinde remissus ad Londinensem illum Evans.

**1656.** Reductus tandem ad charissimum meum preceptorem sub eo, in linguâ Latinâ et Graecâ ediscenda versatus sum, usque dum providentia Divinâ pius et doctus ille senex septuagenarius per mortem ad meliorem vitam commigravit xi. Feb. 1657.

**1658.** Deinde Gulielmus Holland, parochiae nostrae rector, institutionis meae curam gerebat iri Academiae aptus tandem eo ablegarer. Matre interim cum D<sup>no</sup> Barham laborante ut stipendum 10<sup>l</sup> Annuatim ad meum in Academiâ subsidium a Cantianis civibus Londin: acciperem, et Matris diligentia et illius ope (Dei gratiâ) voti compotes facti erant.

**1659.** Annuâ istâ pensione 10<sup>l</sup> accommodatus, ad Academiam Cantabrigiensem missus sum, cuius fausta limina salutabam anno aetatis 14<sup>o</sup> jam incepto. Admissus sum in Collegio Sidniensi Sussexiensi, Edmundo Mathews, Collegii Praeside, in tutorenâ meum electo Aprilis 18.

Eodem anno ad majorem cum tute meo familiaritatem receptus sum et contubernalem ejus me facere dignavit: cuius colloquis familiaribus multa debo et bibliothecae suae, cuius mihi ex humanitate sua copiam fecit, dum in Academiâ moratus sum.

**1661.** Collegii id temporis Magister erat Ricardus Minshull, S.T.D. cuius favorem expertus sum, eo quod. (me inscio) nomen meum proponit diviti et liberali mercatori Londinensi (Gault: Pell nomine) affini suo, et ab eo obtinebat 5<sup>l</sup> annuatim, quo auctus est census meus et parentibus meis omne onus mei sublevandi pene detractum.

**1662.** Post triennium totum in Academiâ consumptum electus sum scholarem Collegii, et annuâ pensione 5<sup>l</sup> honestatus, et eodem anno, post privatam et publicam examinationem in gradum Baccalaureatûs promotus sum Janu. 21, anno aetatis 18<sup>o</sup>.

**1663.** His peractis magna me spes subit brevi fore ut in Socium eligerer vel in Collegio nostro vel in Divi Johannis, ubi

ampla a Doctore Gunning promissa accepi cum benefactores mei Londinenses subsidium 10<sup>l</sup> annuatim subtraxerunt a me et caeteris mei ordinis, et pecuniam omnem, viz. 300<sup>l</sup> per annum Academicis ante datum, in auxilium presbyterorum non-conformantium converterunt, unde dolore plenus ab Academiâ recessi, post quadriennium ibi peractum.

Deinde opportunâ Dei providentiâ Gulielmus Hollond, olim apud Westeram Praeceptor meus, tum Rector de Al-hallow-Stainings, Londini, literis suis me comiter ad eum invitat, et paulo post ejus ope in Diaconatûs ordinem promotus sum a Georgio Asaphensi (deputato Gilberti Londinensis) circiter 18 Augusti, in sacello Hen: VII, anno aetatis meae nondum 19.

Paucis postea diebus, inexpectatâ Providentiâ, D<sup>ns</sup> Momesson literis suis querit ab amico meo Gulielmo praedicto ut eligeret juvenem doctum &c. ad substituendum in parochiâ de Stonegrave D<sup>no</sup> Gilberto Benet, ejus rectori. Oblatam occasionem haud invitus arripui, et matri, patriae, et omnibus amicis valedicens, circa finem Octobris locum istum appuli, ubi hucusque Deo providente prospere vitam egi.

**1664.** Mortuo Radulpho Watsone rogatus sum ab amicis in parochiâ de Dalby ut ibi pedem figerem, sed nolui stationem meam dimittere et amicissimum meum Carolum Man iis commendavi.

Mense Septembris ordinatione publicâ in Ecclesiâ Cathedrali D. Petri a Ricardo Sterne, P: D. Ebor. Archiepiscopo in Presbyteratus ordinem adoptatus sum; nondum 20 vitae meae annum agens.

**1665.** 7<sup>o</sup> die Martii <sup>1664</sup> relictâ habitatione priori apud Stonegrave, rogatu dignissimi amici mei Guil Thornton, armigeri, et uxoris ejus, tam dotibus quam natalitiis clarissimae, hospitium novum in domo praedicti D<sup>ni</sup> mei honorandi apud Newton accepi.

Eodem anno mense Augusti, Divinâ certe providentiâ, propositiones matrimonii a me propositae ad Dominam A.B. virginem sane ingeniosam nec invenustam, rejectae fuerunt, adeo ut mecum statui, non amplius ibi oleum et operam perdere.

**1666.** Mense Maii peste in plurimis locis australibus adhuc saeviente iter incepi ad Academiam, ut gradum Magistri in

Artibus promoverer, at ob pestilentiam Cantabrigiae grassantem, non ausus sum tempore Comitiorum privatorum ibi apparere, sed per vicarium Johannem Carter, coaetaneum meum, ad pileum magistrale vocatus sum.

Dum eo tempore Londini commoratus sum D<sup>s</sup> Guil. Holland dignatus est promittere mihi se velle Rectoriam suam de Wakering in agro Essexiensi valor: 80<sup>l</sup> per annum, mihi resignare Dummodo mihi gratum foret, ego, consultis amicis et consideratis expectationibus meis aquilonaribus, itemque ob insalubritatem regionis illius, benignam ejus propositionem cum gratiis recusavi, et ad Newton redibam, favente Deo, Circa 7<sup>m</sup> diem Julii.

Post redditum meum amici mei mihi dant resignationem factam per D<sup>s</sup> Gilbertum Benet, Rectorem de Stonegrave, quam ab eo, in absentia meâ Stonegrave visitante, procurati sunt scilicet ne cassa spe semper expectarem locum fixum promotionis, et secreto eodem tempore dignissima et optima D<sup>na</sup> Thornton mecum agere coepit de nuptiis filiae suae Aliciae, cuius amore valde correptus sum.

Mense Novembris iterum Londinum appuli cum resignatione meâ, ut obtinerem presentationem Regiam, sed Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis, metuens ne amicus ejus M<sup>r</sup> Benet sibi ob aliam (ut existimo) et meliorem rectoriam molestiam crearet, petitionem meam respuit, et ego, re infectâ, redire cogor mense Decembris et multis conatibus vanis et, sumptibus maximis per 2<sup>os</sup> annos sequentes Archiepiscopi favorem captare ambigebam at nihil profui.

Annus iste concluditur donatione tituli capellani domestici quam accepi ab illustri et Honor: D<sup>no</sup> Freschevil, Baro de Staveley, cuius neptis D<sup>na</sup> Thornton mihi semper amicissima hoc titulum, honoris gratiâ, ab eo impetravit, et ejus amore nunquam mihi defuit favor et auxilium amplissimi et integerrimi hujus viri patroni mei optimi.

**1667.** Sponsa spei mei cum sorore suâ Maij 8<sup>o</sup>. ad Ebor: urbem missa est, ut ibi in feminarum artibus instituerentur. ibi ego maximo ardore petitionem meam prosequutus sum, et eodem anno febre correptus aegrotavi per 7<sup>m</sup> dies mense Julii sed gratiâ Dei convalui, et mense Septembris iter ad Staveley incepi ad domum patroni mei.

**1668.** Mense Septembris vir optime de me meritus, D. Guil. Thornton paralysi correptus ad Malton 17 die mensis diem

suum obiit, quae calamitas viduam ejus piam lachrymis et doloribus pene obruerat, nisi Deus opitulatus esset et eam sustentasset.

Novemb. 5. Auditis rumoribus de cognatis sponsae meae qui nuptias ejus impedire conati sunt licentiam e Curiâ acceptam eae et matri suae proposui, et ut tacite et privatim celebrarentur sponsalia enixe rogavi, et tandem Novemb. 17. per amicum meum Carolum Man Rect de Scawton secreto peragitur Mysterium Sancti Matrimonii, presentibus paucis familiarium; atque ita conjunctus sum, Omnipotentis Gratiâ, Aliciae Thornton, filiae predicti Guil. et Aliciae uxoris ejus, aetatis suae supra 15 cum annos agerem ultra 23, et ego magnopere gavisus sum et Deo Gratias egi.

**1669.** At nobis insciis et nolentibus garrulitate quorundam omnibus innotescit matrimonium consummari, itaque Maij 17 hoc anno, invitatis et vocatis cognatorum et affinium paucis, omnibus rem palam fecimus et publice conjunctos matrimonio agnoscimus.

Mense Junii Dominus meus Dominus Freschevill Archiepiscopum Cantuariensem mihi conciliavit et tandem plurium amicorum meorum curâ presentatio Regia sub sigillo magno mihi concessa est, viz. 5<sup>o</sup> die Octobris, et eam accepi die 7<sup>o</sup>; sed eo tempore febre laboravi, at mirâ Dei providentiâ in tantum restitutus sum ut die 9<sup>o</sup> ad Archiepiscopum me applico et institutus sum in istam rectoriam de Stonegrave, et inductus in eandem die 12 mensis predicti, et perfectam, Deo gratias, recuperavi sanitatem, at non erat possibile unam diem amplius differre, eo quod die proximo Oct. 11. Archiepiscopus iter Londinum versus incepit.

Eodem anno post Concionem in Fest. D Johannis Baptistae in Ecclesia Cathedrali Ebor, proximo die domum rediens, lapsu periculosisimo ab equo artus dextri pollicis secundus loco movetur, unde per tres menses ad scribendum ineptus eram, et gravissimis doloribus cruciatus. Tandem autem, gratiâ Dei mei Clementissimi, cessante dolore, usum ejus mihi restituitur; ideo laudabo Deum auxiliatorem meum.

**1670.** Hoc anno Aprilis 14. Londinium versus abivi, cognatorum visitandi gratiâ et ad solutionem primitiarum, unde a plurimis periculis protegente Numine liberatus sospes redibam 18<sup>o</sup> die Maij.

Exeunte anno Feb 1<sup>o</sup> pater meus dilectus et colendus ab hâc luce

migravit, cui spero me semper obedientem et beneficum fuisse, quod tamen ei ob paternum amorem et divinum mandatum in debitum fuisse agnosco. Paulo post, scilicet Feb ultº avia mea, plena dierum, credo plus quam octogenaria, seculo valedixit, postquam 4<sup>am</sup> generationem vidisset, quorum utrumque laboribus finem imposuit Deus misericors. Avia erat 80. Ex eâ orti sunt 66 antea moriebatur.

Apr. 21. Non silenda est auspicata et pia amicitia in iter cum optimo viro Jos. Lane. Medij Templi studioso, cuius dictis scriptis et precibus multum debeo, nec oblivioni tradendum benignam restitutionem uxoris meae charissimae a febre periculosissimo quo correpta est Martii 1º.

1671. Jun : 1. Mater mea Charissima prospero itinere salutat aedes nostras, et nobiscum manebat integrâ valetudine usque ad finem mensis Februarii, quo periculosissimo febre correpta diu torquetur, viz, usque ad 13 diem Maii, quando vitam miseram commutavit pro immortalitate. Cum vero ictum et angustias mortis per totam vitam solet horrere, Deus misericors dignatus est ut placide et sine ullo signo cruciatus obdormivit in Domino.

1672. Liber meus cui titulus ' *Cultus Rationalis* ' (Companion to the Temple) lucem vidi initio hujus anni, et Deus faxit ut ecclesiae et omnibus piis prospicit.

Aug. Divinâ benevolentâ iterum restitutus sum ad valetudinem, postquam per 3 hebdomadas febre correptus aegrotavi.

1673. Decemb x. hor xii die Mercurii, uxor charissima filium primogenitum mihi peperit, sed in ipso partu pene suffocatus, paulo post redit ad Patrem caelestem, lachrymis et votis parentum solum baptizatum. At qui dedit abstulit Sit Nomen ejus benedictum. Amen.

6 3 2 1 4 7 10 11 12 8 9 5  
Anagram\* Thomas Comber  
Mo harts becom.

Thine office is to bring poor sinners home  
Make converts, so thou mayst mo harts become  
To joyn in Praises with thee, gain thou some  
Thy mercys would mo lips, Mo harts become.

To thee my Great Creator I must give  
Honour and glory every day I live  
O Lord I am perfect both in limbs and mind  
My Parents carefull were and ever kind  
A ll virtuous Education I have had  
S ometimes my fortunes low, but never bad.

Choice are my friends, my Company not evill  
O bliging is my wife, my Neighbours Civill  
My Calling's high & holy, yet a pleasure  
B lessings I have of all kinds without measure  
E nough I have of all that Earth calls store  
R eceive my soul at last, I ask no more.

\* A copy of this with a great many variations in *Memoirs*, p. 423.

In Perpetuum  
Testimonium Divinae Benevolentiae  
grato animo, de meipso  
Misero Peccatore, Ista literis mandavi & Scripsi  
Ego

**1644** Thomas Comber (ex antiquo stemmate, ejus nominis de Barkham in Com: Sussex ortus) filius natu minimus Jacobi Comber Civis Londinensis et Mariae filiae Briani Burton (viduae Edwardi Hamden) de Westerham in Com: Cantii in quo oppido primum traxi spiritum (volente Deo) Martii xix: MDCXLIV, pene exeunte anno: Baptizatus ibi juxta: rit: Eccl: Angl: Mar: 23.

**1648.** Usq: ad quartum aetatis meae annum languoribus continuis eram afflictus, tandem vero miseratione Divinâ et medicinis D<sup>m</sup>: Bray (Pastoris in oppido natali) restitutus sum.

**1650** Varios habui preceptores, prima Latinae linguae Rudimenta didici 6<sup>um</sup> annum agens, sub Auspiciis Reverendi Senis Thomae Walter apud Westerham predictum, usque ad annum 1653, quando ad Londinum missus sum in scholam Johannis Evans, deinde revocatus sum et institutus a Johanne Hooper in ludo publico ap: Sevenokes in Com: Kantii; at an: 1655 remissus ad Dnum Evans, ubi morbo periculoso (Exanthemata vulgo dicitur morbus ille) correptus sum: Convalescens Domum redii & linguis Latin: & Graec: operam dedi sub primo & amantissimo praeceptore usque ad terminum vitae suaे Feb: 21: 1657 Postea D: Gulielmus Holland, Rector Westerhami curam mei gerebat donec visus sum Academiae maturus:

**1659.** Anno 14<sup>o</sup> jam incepto, fausta limina Academiae Cantabrigiensis salutabam. Admissus in Collegium Sydniense

Aprilis xviii<sup>o</sup>: Tutorem agente D: Edmundo Mathews S:T:B: Collegii Praeside et socio seniori, cuius bibliothecae, colloquiis familiaribus & institutioni multum debeo: In subsidium meum Deus mihi largitus est stipendum annum x librarum, a Cantianis Civibus Londin: collatum, & paulo post eadem Providentia addidit Donum v libr: p: Annum, e munificentia D: Gualteri Pell mercatoris opulenti Londinensis: Tribus itemque annis completis Electus sum in Scholarem Collegii praedicti, unde aliis v libris p: annum census meus auctus est.

**1662:** Anno xviii<sup>o</sup> nondum auspicato, post privatam & publicam Examinationem, Titulo Bacalaurei Artium insignitus sum Januar: xxi<sup>o</sup> cum vero ccc libr: p. annum a Cantianis Civibus, Lond: academicis hucusque collatum, hoc tempore in Pastores Presbyteranos ejectos datum est, meum proh dolor! stipendum deficiebat: itaque, licet aliquamdiu laetavi meipsum vanis promissis de electione in numerum sociorum, circa festum Paschalis moesto animo Almae Matri dixi ultimum vale.

**1663.** Domum paternam repetens, D. Gul. Holland praedictus, eo tempore Rector de All-Hallows, Stainings in urbe Londinensi me comiter ad se vocavit, et benigne excepit, cuius ope in gradum Diaconatus admissus sum xviii. Augusti, in sacello Henrici VII apud Westmonasterium, per Georgium Episcopum Asaphensem, vices gerentem Gilberti Londinensis: nondum xix annos agens, et postea legi publicas preces in templo praedicto pro reverendo viro D. Gul. Holland.

Paulo post literis D. Gul. Mompesson vocatus sum in agrum Eboracensem, ut vices agerem D. Gilberti Bennet, A.M. Prebendarii de Southwell, in Rectoria suâ de Stonegrave. Quare, patriâ et omnibus cognatis relictis, Divinae tutelae meipsum commisi, et ad Stonegrave veni, Octob. xvii<sup>o</sup>, volente Deo ut in remoto et ignoto solo pedem figerem.

**1664.** Parochiam vicinam de Dalby vacantem, ab amicis meis ibi degentibus mihi oblatam, non accepi, et proposui antiquum studiorum meorum comitem, Carolum Man, qui et postea in ecclesiam praedictam inductus est.

Sep. xxv. A Rev. P. D. Richardo Stern, Providentiâ Divinâ Eborum Archiepiscopo, in Ecclesiâ Cathedrali Divi Petri, in sacrum Presbyteratus gradum, ritu solenni publice adoptatus sum, anno

vicesimo aetatis meae nondum completo. Martii vii<sup>o</sup> rogatu dignissimi viri Gul. Thornton, Armigeri, habitationem meam in villâ de Stonegrave deserens, hospitium commodum in aedibus praedicti viri colendi apud Newton accepi.

**1666.** Mense Maii iter aggressus sum ad Academiam, et ibidem omnia peregi pro more ut gradum Magistri in Artibus obtinerem, ac dum cognatos in Kantio visito pestis exorta est Cantabrigiae, et publicis comitiis prohibitis per vicarium Johan: Carter, coactaneum meum, ad pileum Magistrale vocatus sum, cum annus vicesimus primus paululum excurrebat.

Eodem tempore a D. Gulielmo Holland oblata est mihi Rectoria de Wakering in agro Essexiensi, at ob loci insalubritatem benignis ejus propositionibus aurem non accommodavi, et vii Junii redii sospes ad Stonegrave, peste adhuc in Austro saeviente.

Mense Novemb. iterum Londinum appuli, acturus cum D.R.P. Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi de resignatione Rectoriae de Stonegrave, at re infecta reversus sum.

Decemb. v. Ornatus eram titulo Capellani Domestici per illustrem et honoratissimum Dominum, Dominum Johannem Freschevill, Baronem de Staveley, cuius neptis erat uxor D Guliel. Thornton.

**1667.** Febre correptus per septem dies decubui, mense Julii, at clementiâ Numinis liberatus sum.

**1668.** Hoc anno vir optimus D. Guliel Thornton paralysi laborans apud Malton diem suum obiit Sept xvii, cuius filia natu major in uxorem jam diu petita, in sacris matrimonii vinculis mihi juncta est (licentiâ ex Curiâ Ebor acceptâ) per Carolum Man praedictum Novemb xvii, cum consensu dignissimae matris suae, anno xxiii<sup>o</sup> vitae meae, uxore charissima, annos xv vix numerante. Ob cognatorum quorundam autem invidiam sponsalia non erant publicata usque ad xvii diem Maij an: 1669. Mater autem sponsae meae claris natalitiis orta, plurimis dotibus ornata, mihi semper amicissima, honoris ergo semper memoranda, ut quae a Dei O.M providentiâ electa est res meas semper promovere, cuius pietati et amori multum debeo.

**1669.** Rectoria de Stonegrave per resignationem D. Gilberti Bennet vacanti opere Domini mei D<sup>ni</sup> Freschevill et studio aliorum amicorum, mihi collata est Serenissimo Domino Carolo II<sup>o</sup>,

Angliae Rege &c, sub sigillo magno Angliae, Octob. 3<sup>o</sup> et in eandem Rectoriam institutus sum ab Archiepiscopo die 1x<sup>o</sup> Octobris, inductus autem in plenariam possessionem die xii<sup>o</sup>, ejusdem mensis per Carolum Man. A.M.

**1670.** Febr. 1<sup>o</sup> Pater meus dilectus ab hac luce migravit, et sepultus apud Harwich in agro Essexiensi, ubi diem suum obiit.

Die ultimo ejusdem mensis avia mea, mater scilicet matris meae, octogenaria et ultra, seculo valedixit, postquam vidisset sexaginta et sex procedentes a seipsa.

**1671.** Mater mea charissima, cujus precibus et curae pene totum educationis et fortunae meae debo, prospero itinere aedes nostras ad Newton salutat, cujus adventus erat mihi exoptatissimus.

**1672.** At, me miserum, gaudium meum cito in luctum vertitur, nam Feb. ultimo correpta est febre, omnes medicinas aspernante, donec Maij xiii<sup>o</sup> placide exspiravit feminarum optima, vix sentiens ictum mortis misericordiâ Dei, licer per totam vitam illas agones solet timere. Sepulta est prope Altare ex australi parte in Ecclesia de Stonegrave, Maii xv. Mense sequente lucem vidi libellus (primitiae meae) cui Titulus *A Companion to the Temple*, et mense Augusti ipse decubui p 3<sup>o</sup> hebdomas febre vexatus, at Deus liberator meus.

**1673.** Decemb. x. Hora 12<sup>a</sup> die Mercurii uxor charissima filium mihi peperit primogenitum, at inter angustias partus pene suffocatus paulo post reddit ad Patrem caelestem, nec baptizatus nisi votis et lachrymis parentum.

**1674.** Januar. 26. Libellus secundus, cui Titulus *A Companion to the Altar*, editus est. Initio autem hujus anni mense Maij prelo exiit libellus quidam ignoti authoris dictus *Advice to the Roman Catholiques &c.* Faxit Deus ut hic, nostrates errantes reducat, ille, recte credentes ad devotionem et pietatem accendat. Amen.

**1675.** Maii 27. Ad Londinum cum uxore charissima profectus sum, et inde ad Westerham, tandem negotiis meis prospere peractis et amicis meis omnibus salutatis, domum rediimus in columnes, Jul: 14, '75.

Jan: 3. Uxor mea charissima peperit mihi filium 2<sup>dum</sup> postridie secreto baptizatum, nomine Johannis. Officium autem

publice peractum erat Jan : 6, sponsoribus Johanne, Dñō Freschevile, Dñō Christophero Wandesford de Kirl<sup>1</sup> Baronetto, Maria Dñā Yorke.

Mar : 14. Libellum 3<sup>um</sup> e Londino accepi, cui titulus *A Companion to the Temple; 2<sup>d</sup> Part, on the Litany and Occasional Prayers*, quo effiendo occupatus sum horis subsecivis per 16 menses, scilicet a Sept. 26. 1674, quando primo manum imposui huic operi, usque ad Jan : 26, 1675, quando ad umbilicum usque perductum est.

1676. Hoc anno occupatus eram in scribendis variis tractatibus nondum editis, de quibus plura in posterum dicenda sunt. Initio hujus anni Libellus meus, *A Companion to the Temple, Part I* prodiit denuo recognitus et emendatus, priori editione longe praestantior. Feb xxiii. Ex literis D. mei Honoratissimi D. Freschevil cognovi quod Archiepiscopus Eboracensis D. Ric. Stern destinasset in me conferre Praebendam in Ecclesiâ suâ Metropoliticâ S. Petri Eboracens :

1677. April 22. Johannes, filius meus unicus, postquam per 6 menses tabe laborasset, medicorum ope frustra adhibita, nobis moerentibus eruptus est. Magna profecto spe decidi cum de indole ejus pulchra ominatus sum omnia, at fiat voluntas Dei.

Jul : 5. In Praebendam de Holm Archiepiscopi installatus sum in Ecclesiâ Metrop B. Petri Ebor., et die 15 ejusdem mensis primo concionatus sum propriâ vice ut Canonicus ibidem.

Hoc anno libros dictos *Advice to the Roman Catholics*, and *The Companion to the Altar* denuo recognitos prelum emittit, itemque liber sine nomine authoris, *De jure Decimarum*, publici juris fit.

1678. May 20. Incepsum erat iter Londinense. H. V. D. Johanne Bennet, Baronetto (mihi tantum ex famâ noto) aureorum nummorum quinque in sumptus ejus itineris inopinato et liberaliter suppeditante.

Jun : 19. Gratias accepi a Ser. Domina, D. Anna, filia 2<sup>da</sup> Illustris. Principis Jacobi Ducis Eboracensis, pro libello meo dicto *The Companion to the Altar*, quo instructa Quadragesimâ praecedente primo accessit ad participationem Coenae Dominicæ in festo Paschalis.

<sup>1</sup> Kirklington.

A Reverendissimo P. D. Gulielmo Sancroft, Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi doctissimo, comiter acceptus et saepius tam mensa quam familiari colloquio suo me dignatus est. Et tandem jure privilegii sui ad Gradum Doctoratus me promovit, et titulo juri-busque Doctoris sive Professoris in S. Theologiâ me ornatus est, Junii 28, aetatis meae 33°.

Nov. 19. Uxor charissima peperit mihi filium tertium, quem, 26° e fonte sacro susceptum per D. Watkinson et D. Lane et aviam suam, Thomam vocarunt.

Jan 10. Dign: et Hon: V. D. Hugo Cholmly, Baronettus, Patronus Rectoriae de Thornton, spontanee et benevolenter dat mihi presentationem ejusdem, tunc vacantis per mortem Christopheri Bradley MA, ultimi incumbentis. In istam autem Rectoriam institutus sum Feb 11°, inductus vero Februar: 17° per Marmaducum Wykes, Vicarium de Ellerburn.

Eodem tempore prodiit 4° et ultima pars Commentarij mei in Liturgiam Anglicanam, scilicet in Officia Extraordinaria, et D. Gulielmo Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi dedicata est.

1679. Cum anno praeterito exeunte responsio fanatica Thomae Elwood ad librum *De Jure Decimorum* prodiisset. Octobris 31°. schedas meas absolvi quibus authoris inscitiam et fallacias detexi, et Thesin nostram ab ejus frivilis calumniis vindicavi in libro dicto *The Right of Tithes re-asserted and vindicated*. Liber dictus *The Companion to the Temple: Part I and II*, ut et libellus ad Romano-Catholicos Anglos, tertio editi.

Feb 19. Filius meus unicus admodum periculose laborabat convulsionibus, ex dentitione et gingivarum doloribus, sed Dei miseratione liberatus.

1680. Apr: 19. Aggressus sum iter Cantabrigiense ad initiandum fratrem uxoris meae, D. Rob. Thornton, inter alumnos Collegii Sidneiensis, inde Londinium veni, ubi editus est liber praedictus *De Jure Decimorum*. Domum redii Maij 22.

Hoc anno occupatus sum in confutatione *Historiae Decimorum* per Joannem Seldenum, sed hoc opus nondum publici juris feci.

Jan: 1. Dom. Johannes Bennet, frater Comitis de Arlington, sua sponte generose obtulit mihi beneficium de Arlington prope Londinium valor: 150<sup>l</sup> per ann: et missis variis epistolis vix

obtinui a dignissimo et mei amantissimo viro ut me excusatum haberet.

Mar 8. Uxor mea peperit mihi filiam primam, hor: dim: post undecimam, a.m., quae baptizata erat in Ecclesiâ de Stonegrave per D. Walker, Mar: 15; Sponsoribus D. Tho. Worsley, Arm: matre uxoris et sorore patris ejus, D<sup>na</sup> Portington, nomine Alicia.

**An: 1681.** Filius meus charissimus Thomas, puer optimae indolis et speci ingentis, rachytide diu laborans, tandem morte eruptus est a nobis, et ad celestia gaudia translatus cuius chori cantica etiam inter nos didicit, nam cantare secundum artem musicam antiquam loqui possit. Sepultus est praecocis ingenii et formae amabilis puer in choro Stongraviensi subter altare.

Julii 4. Hortante Episcopo Eboracensi, resignavi praebendum meam de Holm-Archiepiscopi, et ipse Reverendissimus in Christo Pater et patronus meus contulit mihi multo ampliorem praebendam de Fenton in eadem Ecclesia Eboracensi. Installatione peractâ 16 die ejusdem mensis.

14 Domino. Ric. Grahm,<sup>1</sup> Vicecomite, petente, praedicavi coram Judices (in Eccles: Metropolit: Eboracensi) D. Gul. Dolben<sup>2</sup> et D. Bar. Gregory<sup>3</sup> in Hebr vi. 18. Concio postea typis est mandata.

Novemb. 16. Hoc tempore prodiit *Historica vindicatio Decimaru*m *jure Divino debitaram*, contra *Historiam Decimaru*m a Seldeno scriptam. Liber plurimis viris doctis et probis acceptus; item Libellus dictus *Religion and Loyalty supporting each other*: jam prodiit, ignoto authore.

**An 1682.** Apr. 26. Divina providentia liberatus sum ab ingenti periculo apud Doncaster, ubi pluvia continua fecerunt

<sup>1</sup> Sir Richard Graham. First Baronet, 1662, of Norton Conyers, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Chichester Fortescue. He was High Sheriff in 1681 and again at the end of the reign of James II.

<sup>2</sup> William Dolben, brother of the Archbishop of York. Inner Temple; Barrister 1672 and Bencher 1677. Recorder of London 1676. Knighted 1676. Serjeant 1677. Judge of the King's Bench 1678. Suspended in 1683. Returned to the Bench 1689. Died 1694.

<sup>3</sup> William Gregory. Born 1624. All Souls' College, Oxford, and Gray's Inn. Called to Bar 1650, Bencher 1675. Recorder of Gloucester 1672. Serjeant 1677. M.P. for Weobley 1679. Speaker House of Commons 1679. Baron of the Exchequer 1679. Discharged 1686. M.P. for Hereford 1689. Judge of the King's Bench 1689. Died 1696.

tantam aquarum inundationem quantum antea nunquam. Ego vero, tali omine monitus ab incepto itinere ad Londinum, redii Eborac. Maii 1<sup>o</sup>.

May 26. Feliciori auspicio incepi iter ad Oxoniā, ubi fratre Roberto admisso in Collegio Universitatis ego abii Londinum, ubi Episcopus Londinensis obtulit mihi parochiam de S. Mariae Wolnoth, valoris 230<sup>l</sup> per an: et Archiepiscopus suadet mihi ut acciperem Ecclesiam illam, sed gratiis actis, meipsum excusatum dedi.

Jun: 10. Hortante Episcopo Londinensi (patrono meo Dnō de Freschevil jam ad superos translato) admissus sum apud Windsor ut oscularem manus Dnāe Annae filiae Duci Eboracensis, cuius Capellanus exinde factus eram.

Eo tempore publicavi animadversiones meas in librum D. Gilb. Burnet *de Regaliis*.

Dec 27. Soror uxoris meae Catherina nupta apud Newton Thomas Purchas, M.A., nuper de Coll. Christi apud Cantabrigiam.

**An. 1683.** Jun: 18. Reverendissimus Pater Rich. Stern, Archiepiscopus Eboracensis, moritur, et, me presente, humatus in Cathedrali Eccles. 22.

Julij 28. Rever. Pater. Johannes Dolben, Roffensis Episcopus, electus in Archiepiscopum per Capitulum, me presente.

Aug 24. Charissima uxor mea peperit filias gemellas ante diem cum summo discrimine.

25. Electus sum in Precentorem Ecclesiae Cathedralis B. Petri Ebor et Prebend de Driffield, per nominationem Archiepiscopi et Episcopi Londinensis; me nec concio nec omnino petente talem dignitatem, tunc vacantem per mortem Roberti Soresby, S.T.P.

Octob 19. Resignavi Prebendam de Fenton, et institutus sum in Precentoriam et Prebendam de Driffield; installatus 23<sup>o</sup>.

Feb. 4. Incepi residentiam meam primariam.

Mar. 19. 2<sup>o</sup> Pars *Historiae Decimarum* contra J. Selden et G. Burnet fit publici juris.

**An. 1684.** Maij 30 Presentavi D. Barn. Long, S.T.P. Archidiaconum Cleveland, amicum mihi charissimum ad Rec-

toriam de Odington, cuius Rectoriae eram patronus ratione Precentoriae.

Jun : 29. Rev. Pater J. Smith consecratus in Episcopum Carliolensem per Archiepiscopum, Episcopos Dunelm, et Sodor, tunc electum Bristoliensem, in Cathedrali Ebor, me presente, et ministrante Domino meo Archiepiscopo.

Jul : 22. Contentio de sede Majoris Eboraci in Ecclesiâ Cathedrali sedata ad arbitrium Dom. Capitalis Justiciarii, me procurante.

Julij 31. Admissus sum ad officium Justic. de pace Dom. Regis in libertate S. Petri.

Octob. 14. Electus sum in procuratorem Capituli pro convocatione sequente.

Nov : 30. Uxor charissima peperit mihi filium, sacro fonte tinctum Dec 4, susceptoribus D. Edw. Blacket, Baronet, D. G. Hicks, Decano Wigorn: et aviâ Dñâ Aliciâ Thornton, nomine Gulielmum.

Feb 23. Ego ad Londinum et Oxonię, ubi Martii 11 frater uxoris, D Rob. Thornton, electus erat in socium Collegii Magdal: per resignationem D. Barn: Long, tunc febricitantem. Redii incolumis Apr: 4, et 16 nuntium accepi de morte amici mei D. Long.

**Anno 1685.** Apr : 26. S. Coena, me petente, per mandatum Reverendissimi Archiepiscopi, coepit omni Die Dominica celebrari in Eccles. Cathedrali, Eborum.

May 11. Incepi residentiam meam secundam, et 14 Electus sum in Procuratorem Capituli pro Convocatione per Regem Jacobum 2<sup>um</sup> annuntiata.

Jul : 29. Amici mei D Burton et D. Bridges<sup>1</sup> installati, alter in Archidiac. de Cleveland, alter in Prebendam de Riccal, favore D. Archiepiscopi et meis precibus et eorum meritis.

Aug 31. Presentavi fratrem meum D. T. Purchas, M.A., ad Rectoriam de Odington.

Sep. 26. Tractatus meus *De Excommunicatione*, per consilium Episcopi Londinensis, excusans.

<sup>1</sup> William Bridges. St. John's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1657-8, M.A. 1661. Curatę Barwick-in-Elmet, 1660. Rector of Barton-le-Street 1668-73, Castleford 1673-96. Preb. of York 1685-96. Preb. of Ripon 1688-96. Died 1696.

Feb 12. Uxor mea peperit mihi filiam, baptismati donatam (16) nomine Mariae, sponsoribus D. Tob. Conyers, Resident Ebor., Aviâ Thornton et Dñâ Eliz. Denton.

**Anno 1686.** Apr: 11. Reverendissimus in Christo Pater D. J. Dolben moritur, et die 12 Decano, me, &c, membris Ecclesiae Cathedralis, corpus portantibus, sepultus in Cathed.

26. Incepi regulationem Bibliothecae per mandatum D. Archiepiscopi nuper defuncti.

May 14-27. Vasa argentea pro administratione S. Coenae, et plurimos libros magni pretii, data ad Ecclesiam Cathedralem per uxorem et filios Rever. Archiepiscopi.

Jun: 3. Ecclesiam de All hallows Barking, Londin: vacantem per cessionem D. G. Hicks, Decani Worcesterensis, mihi oblatum est per Reverendissimum in Christo Patrem, Gulielmum Archiepiscopum Cantuariensem patronum, sed assensum non praebui.

July: 18. Praedicavi in Cathedrali coram Judic. Wright<sup>1</sup> et Lord,<sup>2</sup> in Micha, vi. 8, pro Chr. Tancred,<sup>3</sup> Arm: Vicecomite.

October 30. Per intercessionem Episc. Eliensis,<sup>4</sup> Comes Roffensis,<sup>5</sup> D Thesaurarius concedit nobis in vacatione sedis redditus terrarum concess. Decano et Capitulo in excambio pro mansione Episcopali apud London, vulgo vocat. Yorke-Place.

Dec. 9. Nomine Decani et Capituli possessionem accepi de 120 acris et un: rod: terrae in Manerio de Hornby, quae est

<sup>1</sup> Sir Robert Wright. Peterhouse, Cambridge. B.A. 1658, M.A. 1661. Inner Temple. Married Susan, daughter of Bishop Wren. M.P. for King's Lynn. Serjeant 1679. Baron of the Exchequer 1684. Recorder of Cambridge 1685. King's Bench 1687. C.J. Common Pleas 1687. C.J. King's Bench 1687. Member of the Ecclesiastical Commission. Presided at the trial of the seven bishops. Died 1689.

<sup>2</sup> There was no judge of this name. The other judge was John Powell. Born about 1633, was at Oxford, but apparently took no degree. Entered at Gray's Inn 1650. Called to the bar 1657. Judge of Common Pleas and Knighted April 26, 1686. Removed to King's Bench in April 1687. During the whole time he sat on the bench in James II's reign he was always associated on the circuit with Sir Robert Wright. For his opinion expressed at the trial of the seven bishops he was dismissed. In 1689 restored to the Common Pleas. Died 1696.

<sup>3</sup> Christopher Tancred of Whixley. Sheriff of York 1685-6. M.P. for Aldborough 1685 and 1689-90. D.L. Yorkshire 1688.

<sup>4</sup> Francis Turner. D.D. and Master of St. John's College, Cambridge. Bishop of Rochester 1683, of Ely 1684. One of the seven bishops. Non-juror. Died 1700.

<sup>5</sup> Laurence Hyde. First Earl of Rochester. Second son of Edward, first Earl of Clarendon. Lord High Treasurer 1685.

gleba ejus Rectoriae, et olim amissa erat per negligentiam predecesorum nostrorum; at modo restituta per Hon virum Conyers, Comitem de Holdernesse.

Jan 1. Publicatur *Dialogus inter sacerdotem Pontificalem et Ecclesiae Anglicanae Laicum*, viz. Responsio ad speciosas Pontificiorum argumentationes e. S. Scriptura petitas.

Mar : 23. Amicus meus D. Tobias Conyers, residentiarivs Ebor. moritur, et sepultus ap: D. Ellen's<sup>1</sup> 25 Die.

**Anno 1687.** Tractatus de duellis publici fit juris, scriptus occasione militum apud Ebor. et alibi se mutuo confodientium.

Maij 23. Iter ad Londinum cum Decano Dunelm per Cantabrigiam, ubi Jun : 9 emi redditus circa 18<sup>l</sup> per an: a D. Jo. Bucknall.

Jun : 16 praedicavi ad Eboracenses, cives et habitatores Londini in Ecclesiâ D. Mariae de arcubus.<sup>2</sup>

Jun : 19. Ad Oxoniā, ubi praesentavi fratrem uxoris meae R. Thornton ad Rectoriam de Odington, vacantem per resignationem D. T. Purchas.

Aug. 22. Tractatus de Nicaeno Concilio 2<sup>o</sup>, et 2<sup>a</sup> Pars Dialogi inter Sacerdotem Pontificalem et Ecclesiae Anglicanae Laicum, viz Responsio ad speciosas argumentationes Pontificiorum ex Antiquitate, prelo commissi.

Sept. 21. Pactum primum cum Rollando Walker pro reverione precariae de Useburne parva signatum erat, et Apr 28, 1688, vendidit mihi totam illam Rectoriam.

Nov. 1. Sermo de tribus horis precandi ad prelum commissi  
9 D. Jo. Covel installatus in Cancellarium Ecclesiae Eboracensis (11<sup>o</sup>) Sex Residentiarii protestationem faciunt: Decanus, ego, D. W. Stainforth, D Hen James,<sup>3</sup> D. Jo Burton, et D. Jo. Covel.

Jan 23. D. R. Thornton resignat Rectoriam de Odington, unde.

Mar : 10 presentavi amicum meum Rob. Parsons ad eandem Rectoriam.

<sup>1</sup> St. Helen's, York.

<sup>2</sup> St. Mary-le-Bow.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Henry James. Queens', Cambridge. B.A. 1663-4, M.A. 1667, B.D. 1675, D.D. 1679. Fellow 1664. President 1673. Vice-Chancellor 1683-4. Regius Prof. of Divinity 1699-1717. Rector St. Botolph's, Cambridge, 1671. Preb. York 1687-1717, of Canterbury 1705-17. Died 1717.

**Anno 1688.** May 29. Nuntius specialis a Londino, missus ad me cum rationibus pro non legenda Declaratione Regis. Quas rationes mittendas curavi per totam diocesin, et pro virili feci ne legatur. Ipse autem eram apud Thornton, primâ die Dominica, et ad Stonegrave 2<sup>a</sup> Dominica, in quibus erat legenda, sed non legi; et Aug : 8 responsum dedi ad inquisitionem Archidiaconi me non legisse.

Aug : 24. Vocatus sum coram Justiciarios Pontificios et respondi quæstiones propositas a Rege Jacobo de electione Memberorum pro Comitiis Parlamento. Responsum accepit D. Walt. Vavasour, et paulo post ejectus sum de Commissione Pacis per Regem Jacobum.

Sept. 29. Hoc tempore re-aedificavi domum meum de Useburne, ut esset pro refugio uxori et liberis meis, quando (quod mihi erat metuendum) Commissionarii Regis Jacobi ejicerent me de omnibus meis beneficiis.

Octob : 1. D. J. Kay, cum 1000 electoribus, venit ad Ebor, ut eligeretur in militem pro Comitatu, et Rex non mittit Breve suum ut promisit; itaque congregatis nobilibus viris consilium dedi ut ipsam Regi mitterent petitionem pro libera electione Parliamenti.

Nov : 14. Narrata mihi expeditione Principis Auriaci, qui Angliam cum ingenti classe appulit, ego cum uxore et familia secessimus ad Newton, ubi paulo post illa peperit mihi filiam Nov : 26 hor. 4. matutin.

Nov 22. Comes de Danby et caeteri Nobiles et generosi occupant urbem Eboracensem, me absente.

28. Reverendissimus in Christo Pater Thomas Lamplough, per mandatum Regis Jacobi electus erat in Archiepiscopum, per Capitulum, et installatus Dec. 19: me nec in primo nec in 2<sup>do</sup> Capitulo presente.

Dec. 4. Filius meus 2<sup>dus</sup> baptizatus, nomine Thomas, apud Stonegrave, per D. Car. Man : Compatres, Tho. Comes Danby, et D Tho. York, Armiger, Commater, D Maria Wandesford. (Natus erat 26 die November : hora 4 matutina).

Febr. 17. Rex Gulielmus et regina Maria publice recognizati Reges Angliae, Scotiae, Franciae et Hiburniae in urbe Ebor. Ego praedicavi Cathedrali Ecclesiâ, re non audita nisi eo ipso,

mane, proximo die ad Londinum abiit.

Mar: 1. Admissus sum ad osculum manus Regiae Mariae publice, cum reddit a sua regali Capellâ. Eodem tempore erat in prelo liber meus de imposturis Romanensibus et Baronianis in Conciliis, publici juris autem fit circa Septemb: 29 postea.

1689. Mar: 27. Per Cantabrigiam redi domum incolumem, Deo Gratias, licet erat iter pluvia et aquis valde infestum.

Julii. 4. Dav. Clarkson: liber de Liturgiis missus erat mihi a Londino, amicis meis potentibus ut responderem pernicioso illi libro.

19. Cum iterum allactus essem a Rege Gulielmo et Regina Maria in Commissione Pacis, juratus sum allegiantiam iis praestare in Sessionibus nostris.

Sept. 12. Omnes liberi mei aegri, et laborantes exanthematibus, sed fere sine ullo periculo omnes (Deo gratias) convaluerunt. Hoc tempore Rev. in Christo Pater Johannes Lake, Episcopus Cicestrensis, scripsit mihi de juramentis allegiantiae, cui responsum dedi per duas epistolas.

Sept. 19. Archiepiscopus a Londino nuper veniens receptus erat processionaliter ad occidentalem ostium Ecclesiae Eboracensis, me presente.

Octob. 16. Electus sum unus procuratorum Capituli Ebor. in Convocationem aperiendam Octob: 19, qua die incepit Convocatio, Archiepiscopo presente.

Octob: 30. Finita est prima pars Historiae Liturgiarum et responsum ad Clarkson, et Nov: 9 incepi componere partem 2<sup>dam</sup> et finit: Apr. 3. 1690.

1690. Jun: 15. Amicus quidam meus, vir doctus, pius et prudens, olim ordinatus a presbyteris tantum, accepit (hortatu meo) S.S. ordines a Tho. Episcopo Lincolnensi.

Aug: 19. Archiepiscopus visitat Capitulum Ebor. Decano absente ego legi protestationem de modo et formâ visitandi.<sup>1</sup>

Oct: 11. Quidam S.B. responsum edit. ad Historiam meam de Liturgiis, cui responsum dedi Jan: 7.

Jan 24. Pactum feci cum Bern: Smith pro novo Organo in

<sup>1</sup> There was not another archiepiscopal visitation of the Chapter till 1841. (*State of the Cathedral Church of York*, 2nd edn., Leeds, 1900.)

Ecclesiâ Cathedrali Eboracensi, solvend. pro meâ parte 200*l.* et 25*l*  
plur. subscr.

Mar: 15. Nova palla ex pretiosissimo serico et auro data ad  
operiendum Altare Ecclesiae Cathedralis Ebor. Bene-  
factor autem pius et humilis Deo soli (non nobis)  
notus.

1691. Apr: 25. D. Marchio de Caermarthen scripsit mihi de  
promotione meâ a Rege Gulielmo ad Decanatum Dunel-  
mensem.

27. Iter ad Londinum.

Maii 9. Institutus sum ab Episcopo Dunelm. in eundem De-  
canatum.

14. Resignavi Ecclesiam de Stonegrave in gratiam J.  
Denton, uxoris patrui, et (28) redi ad Ebor.

11. Mortuo Th. Lamplough, Ebor Archiepiscopo, Maii 5.  
J. Sharp, Decanus Cantuarensis, est nominatus per  
Regem et Reginam in Archiepiscopum Eboracensem.

Jun: 15. Installatus sum in stallum Decanatus per D<sup>rem</sup> Gray,  
6 Prebendariis presentibus, et mihi obedientiam juran-  
tibus, cum coeteris de choro.

Oct: 14. Familia mea tota venit ad Civitatem Dunelmensem,  
et residentiam primam incepi 21<sup>o</sup>. Eodem tempore  
operarii reparations Decanatus fecerunt, meo sumptu.

Decemb. 19. Resignavi Precentoriam Eboracensem coram Notario  
publico, et 19<sup>o</sup> Januarii accepta erat, et paulo post D' Fall  
factus Precentor.

1692. April. Curiae ad Decanum et Capitulum pertinentes ten-  
me presente, in urbe et in Pittington, Shields, Billing-  
ham et Merrinton.

24. D Mountague succedit in xi Prebendam, vacantem  
per mortem Episc Wood. D. Theophilus Pickering  
succedit D. Mountagu in 4 Prebendam. Installati, me absente,  
mense Julii.

June 4. Frater uxoris, D. R. Thornton, pro quo obtinuissem  
Rectoriam de Boldon, Sep 5, '92, et qui mecum postea  
vixit, febre correptus initio Maii, moritur, et sepultus in Cathedrali  
Dunelmensi Jun: 6.

18 Domo Decanatus, reparato meis sumptibus, ego primo

pernoctavi ibi cum parte meae familiae. Tota familia venit et habitat ibi Octob: 13.

July 13. Nomen meum ascriptum in Commissione ut Justiciarum pacis.

Aug 13. Conventio inter matrem, me, et T Purchas de divisione Newton, Laystrop et Middleham. Mater habet pensionem de 95<sup>l</sup> per an: clar. T. Purchas Laystrop et Middleham. Newton erat mea pars, sed de debitis R. T. 500<sup>l</sup> plus quam T. P solvend' a me. Pacta sigillata Sept: 30 apud Newton.

30 Mandatum accepi a D Camerario ut tanquam Capellanus ordinarius deberem officium praestare Regi et Reginae in mense Octobris, sed Regina me excusat usque ad mensem Aprilis.

Nov. 26. Responsum exscripsi ad libellum famosum contra Regem Gulielmum.

**1693** Jan: 16. Juramenta accepi ut Justiciarius pacis in Session. Aet. 48. et.

Feb 15. factus sum Commissionarius pro regali subsidio.

Febr. 2. Compositio facta inter me et Gul. Wilkinson per D. Eyre et Ward. Recepit circa 100<sup>l</sup> de redditibus ab eo prius receptis mihi autem debitis.

Mar. 8. Finita nova plantatio in Bearpark ubi plantavi 1500 quercus et 500 fraxinos.

23. Londinum abii, et ut Capellanus Reg. preces legi coram Regina ab Apr. 1 and 15. Praedicavi bis in Regali sacella, scilicet, Apr 7 et 9. Redii Dunelm. May 12.

Jun: 13. Pactum cum campan: fundatore pro 8 nova campana (sic) pro Cathedrali.

Aug: 3. Ultra 800<sup>l</sup> debiti R.T.<sup>1</sup> solut' per me hoc anno.

Sep: 28 Incepi aedificare novum domum apud Newton pro. G. Bows.<sup>2</sup>

Nov. 24. Compositio cum W. Tempest, Armigero, pro dilapidationibus Decani Sudbury. Recepit tantum 110<sup>l</sup>.

Dec. 9. Carbonarii perforant usque ad carbones in Beaupark, et fossam novam liberant a stagnante aquā.

<sup>1</sup> Robert Thornton.

<sup>2</sup> George Bowes, of Newton, yeoman, was one of the appraisers of Mrs. Thornton's goods when she died. He was also a trustee of lands left for the benefit of the poor at Stonegrave. See *Life of Mrs. Alice Thornton*, pp. 342, 354n.

Mar : 3. Aulea in magno triclinio appensa, et totum ornatum, meis expensis.

9. Pactum pro Precario apud Ferryhill cum W.T. et 300<sup>l</sup> jam solut' Cap. Tempest in parte.

1694. Aug : 6. 2 : iter Londin' susceptum : 29 erat jejunium.

Aet. 49. Ego praedicavi coram D. Reginam, Psal. cxxii, 6, et Regina mandat ut praelo detur hic sermo. 3<sup>am</sup> et 4<sup>am</sup> partem Fictionum Romanensium item eodem tempore praelo commisi.

Sep : 11. Redii ad Ebor. et obviam habui uxorem ad Dunelm. cum familia, 22 Residentiam incepi, 30 malâ profecto valetudine.

Oct. 7. Maria filia fratis mei, nupta D. Butcher.

23. D<sup>r</sup> Eyrs, Prebendarius hujus Ecclesiae, moritur.

Nov : 2. D. Jac. Finny installatur in ejus locum, per D. Pickering ejus procuratorem.

Dec : 7. Epitome librorum meorum de Decimis finita erat, et missa Archiepiscopo Ebor.

Dec : 28. Hoc anno, mense Novembr : 22, Archiepiscopus Cantuar. D Tillotson, moritur, et Dec : 28 (proh dolor) feminarum optima, Domina mea colendissima, Regina : et Dec 5 D.T. Tennison<sup>1</sup> eligitur Archiepiscopus.

1694-5. Jan : 13. Praedicavi in Cathedrali circa mortem Reginae, in Heb xi. 10, et Mar : 5, quando funera celebrantur orationem feci ad 4 preces.

Jun : 8. D. Adams translatus ad x. Prebendam, vacantem per mortem D. Brevint, et D Dobson installatus in 6 Prebendam.

Jul : 3. Domus nov' aedif' apud Thornton, et emi terram adjacentem pro pomario. Totus sumptus circa 200<sup>l</sup>.

Aug : 14. Perforavi pro carbonibus apud Newton, sed sine Successu. Aedificavi murum loco granarii ibi.

Nov. 22. Prima causa mea adversus D<sup>am</sup> Atkinson in Schaccario, determinata pro me, et 40<sup>l</sup>. dat' mihi pro expensis.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Tenison. Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Chaplain to Charles II. Rector of Bracon Ash, Norfolk, and Holywell, Hunts, 1661. Rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields 1680. Archdeacon of London 1689. Rector of St. James, Westminster, 1689. Bishop of Lincoln 1691. Archbishop of Canterbury 1694. Died 1715.

## Memoirs out of my Minutes

1677. July. I was installed Prebend of Holme.  
1678. Jan. I voted in Chapter for M<sup>r</sup> Rob. Squire<sup>1</sup> to be Register.  
1681. Jul. 16. I was installed Prebend of Fenton.  
1683. Oct. 23. I was installed Precentor. Jan: 21. I came to my house at York. 26 I protested Residence,<sup>2</sup> there being the Dean, B<sup>p</sup> Lake, D<sup>r</sup> Stones, and M<sup>r</sup> Conyers residentiarys and note, I was not summoned to the Chapter.  
Feb. 4. I began my Residence.  
1684. April 7. D<sup>r</sup> Cook's lady rail'd at the Body for not admitting her husband Residentiary.  
7 July. The Bishop of Bristol<sup>3</sup> left York cleerly. Qu: when M<sup>r</sup> Stainforth came in.  
Aug. 4. My first Residence ended.  
Oct. 15. Archbishop Dolben's primary Visitation.  
Nov. 11. None present at the Chapter but the Dean, I, M<sup>r</sup> Conyers and M<sup>r</sup> Stainford, and D<sup>r</sup> Stones sent his note. We divided Residence and took no notice of D<sup>r</sup> Cook.<sup>4</sup>  
13. We made our dividend also without him.

<sup>1</sup> Robert Squire, fifth son of William Squire of Ulleskelf, born at Ulleskelf manor 1648. Practised the law as proctor. M.P. for Scarborough. Married Priscilla, daughter of Edward Bower of Bridlington. One son, Robert, and two daughters. Died at York, Oct. 1707. His monument in St. Michael-le-Belfry, York. See Williams *Hist. North Riding*, I, p. 551. *Yorkshire Arch. Journal* xxxv, p. 386.

<sup>2</sup> Protested residence. By statute 3 July 33 H.8. a canon about to begin his residence must, in the Chapter House, before the dean, or in his absence before a canon or canons and before the chapter actuary or some other notary, publicly protest that on such a day he intended to begin his first residence, which protestation should be put into writing by the actuary or notary. He must begin his residence on the day so fixed. (MS. Sequel to Burton's *Monasticon*, Vol. I.) The first man who could buttonhole the dean and protest his residence on the death of a residentiary had to be called into residence by the dean. This custom arose later.

<sup>3</sup> The Bishop of Bristol was Dr. John Lake, Preb. of York, Bishop of Sodor and Man 1683, Bristol 1684, Chichester 1685.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Marmaduke Cooke, 1625-1684. Catharine Hall, Cambridge. B.A. 1646, M.A. 1650, D.D. 1677. Master of the Free School, Doncaster, 1649-64. Rector of Kirk Bramwith 1660-3. Preb. of York 1661-84. Vicar of Leeds 1663-77. Died 25 December 1684. Buried in York Minster.

Dec 10. We gave in our answer to the Archbishop, and by ourselves, and Dr Cook made a separate answer.

Jan: 3. Mr Welsted<sup>1</sup> installed.

May 11. I began my 2<sup>d</sup> Residence.

July 29. Dr Burton installed Archdeacon and Mr Bridges Prebend.

Oct. 31. Mr Dryden and Winship<sup>2</sup> installed.

Nov. 11. Dr Stones was dead. For the Residence was divided between the Dean, me, Mr Conyers and Mr Stainford and the (27) Dr Stones was omitted out of the Compute.

1685. April 12. Upon Bishop Dolben's death the Chapter assumed the jurisdiction.

13. The Dean and I, Mr Conyers and Mr Stainforth apointed *Custodes Cancellariatus*, and D. H. Squire<sup>3</sup> Commissary.

Jul. 17. We assumed the jurisdiction of Chester on the death of Bishop Pierson,<sup>4</sup> and 23: constituted our Commissaries there and at Richmond.

Nov. 11. The Residence divided between four; the Dean, me, Mr Conyers and Stainford: but the days altered, Feb 3, by Mr Conyer's illnesse.

Mar. 23 Mr Conyers dyed. 26 Another Chapter about residence.

1686. Aug. 2: Dr Burton was taken into the Commission as being then a Residentiary, and began Residence June 11.

18. I admitted Mr Mitford<sup>5</sup> Prebend of Bole.

Nov 5. Dr Covell came and Dr James with Mandates.

Nov. 9. He installed Chancellor.

1687. Nov. 11. Residence was divided between six: the Dean, I,

<sup>1</sup> Leonard Welstead. Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. B.A. 1671, M.A. 1674. Preb. of Riccall in York Minster 1684; exchanged for Stillington 1685-94. Vicar of Newcastle upon Tyne 1693-4 and Vicar of Abingdon, Northants, 1685-92. Died at Newcastle 1694 and buried in St. Nicholas' Church.

<sup>2</sup> George Winship. Durham School. St. John's, Cambridge. B.A. 1675-6, M.A. 1681, Deacon 1677. Priest 1679. Vicar of Malton, Yorks, 1684-9. Preb. of York 1685-90. Non-juror.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Squire was a lawyer living in St. Helen's parish. The registers of St. Michael-le-Belfry mention the burial of his daughter Jane, October 26 1698, and his own burial on 2nd July 1699.

<sup>4</sup> John Pearson (1613-86). D.D. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, 1660. Archdeacon of Surrey 1660. Bishop of Chester 1673-1686. Wrote *Exposition of the Creed* 1659, *Vindiciae Epistoliarum S. Ignatii* 1672. As he died in 1686 Comber's note is under the wrong year.

<sup>5</sup> James Metford, or Mitford. C.C.C., Oxon. M.A. and Fellow 1660. Deacon 1660. Priest 1661. Rector of Bassingham, Lincs. Preb. of York 1687-1720. Author of *A General Discourse of Simony* 1682.

M<sup>r</sup> Stainforth, M<sup>r</sup> Burton, D<sup>r</sup> Covel and D<sup>r</sup> James.

Dec 19. Our Martinmas dividend made between 3. Note St Peter's part then was with all profits of vacancy but 66<sup>l</sup> 17<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup> 1/2.

Jan : 11. D<sup>r</sup> Burton's first Residence completed and approved in Chapter.

Feb. 2. The Residentialys met and made a new partition of their patronages.

1688. Nov. 11. was of a Sunday and I have no memoir how Residence was divided that year.

Dec. 19. Tho. Lamplough installed Archbishop and I not present. D<sup>r</sup> James and D<sup>r</sup> Covell were then both gon away.

1689. May 11. I began my Residence. Jun. 5. M<sup>r</sup> Finny Preb. Husthwayt.

17 M<sup>r</sup> Lamplough,<sup>1</sup> Preb Wistow : M<sup>r</sup> Sands<sup>2</sup> Succentor Canonorum : M<sup>r</sup> Pierson,<sup>3</sup> Preb of Ampleford.

Sep<sup>r</sup> 19. We received Archbishop Lamplough with procession.

Nov. 11. Residence was divided among 5 : the Dean, I, M<sup>r</sup> St[ainforth], M<sup>r</sup> B[urton], and D<sup>r</sup> Ja[mes]

Dec. 9. We met and made our dividend.

1690. Our Pentecost dividend was made July 1.

Aug. 1. D<sup>r</sup> Breary,<sup>4</sup> Preb. Botevant : D. Pierson, Archdeacon [of] Nottingham, M<sup>r</sup> Sands, Preb. Wilton. 11. Notice of Archbishop Lamplough's visitation.

Sep. 23. Our answers accepted.

Nov. 11. D<sup>r</sup> Breary and M<sup>r</sup> Dryden<sup>5</sup> not admitted. We met at our own time, and divided the Residence among 5 : the D, I, M<sup>r</sup> St, M<sup>r</sup> B, D<sup>r</sup> J.

Dec. 17. S. Peter's and fabric accounts made up at M<sup>r</sup> Squire's.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Lamplugh. Queen's, Oxford. B.A. 1682-3, M.A. 1685. D.D. 1701. Rector of Wheldrake 1689, Preb. of York 1689-1703. Archdeacon of Richmond 1695. Rector of Avington, Berks, 1696; St. Andrew Undershaft, London, 1701. Died 1703.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Sandys. Succentor 1669-1718. Preb. of Weighton 1690-1718.

<sup>3</sup> William Pearson, LL.D. Lambeth. Chancellor of the Diocese and Preb. of York 1689. Archdeacon of Nottingham and Rector of Barton, Notts., 1690. Rector of Wheldrake 1692. Preb. of Southwell 1692. Subdean York 1695. Rector of Bolton Percy 1697. Died 1715.

<sup>4</sup> William Brearey, or Breerey. Sidney Sussex, Cambridge. B.A. 1664-5, LL.D. 1674. Archdeacon of East Riding 1675-1701. Rector of Adel 1677-1701. Rector of Guiseley 1677-1701. Preb. of York 1690. Buried St. John's, York, 9th March 1701-2.

<sup>5</sup> Jonathan Dryden. M.A. Rector of Keighley 1675-9. Rector of Scrayingham and Rector of Londesborough 1680. Preb. of York 1682. Died 1702.

Mar. 14. M<sup>r</sup> Dryden was with us in the vestry about his protestation.

1691. Apr. 21. Another meeting with him there.

May 9. I was instituted Dean of Durham.

June 15. Installed there. 29. We made the last dividend I was present at. After August I retired from York and went to Durham so I know no businesse since.

1691. Mem: Feb. 18. D<sup>r</sup> Fall protested 1st Residence.

19. He protested and declared he had begun.

Apr. 21. '98. D<sup>r</sup> Gale,<sup>1</sup> Dean, protested.

Memorandum. When I was at York I collected an account out of the Registers of the Residentiarys from the year 1541, and can demonstrate thence that there was frequently but one Residentiary; —sometimes two—never above three and the Dean: and that not till 1633, just before the wars.

At my first comming to York, anno 1663, there were five:—the Dean, D<sup>r</sup> Soresby, Precentor; D<sup>r</sup> Stones, Chancellor: D<sup>r</sup> Neal;<sup>2</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Elcock<sup>3</sup>: whose places were supplyed single as they died by D<sup>r</sup> Lake, M<sup>r</sup> Conyers, myself, and M<sup>r</sup> Stainford, and by the succeeding Deans.

Nor did we ever exceed this number till King James the 2<sup>d</sup>'s time. A Mandamus came, which we durst not dispute: and in a little more than one year (by D<sup>r</sup> Covel's retiring to Cambridge) we were but 5 again.

S. Peter's part can be no more than the part of one Residentiary, and it is the only fund to pay all the salarys and charges of the Cathedrall and its Attendents, &c.

And when I came in, D<sup>r</sup> Lake shewed me an account of divers yeers, wherein S. Peter's part was not able to pay this, and mony was yeerly taken up of the Residentiary to make out the salarys, &c. and for these summs S. Peter was yeerly returned Debtor to the

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Gale. Westminster School and King's, Cambridge. B.A. 1658, M.A. 1662, D.D. 1675. Regius Professor of Greek, Cambridge, 1666-72. Dean of York 1697. Died 1702. One of the great classical scholars of his day.

<sup>2</sup> John Neile or Neale. Pembroke, Cambridge. B.A. 1627-8, M.A. 1631, B.D. 1638, D.D. 1661. Fellow 1632. Preb. of Southwell 1633-75. York 1634-75. Durham 1635-75. Rector of Beeford, Yorks, 1637. Archdeacon of Cleveland 1638-75. Vicar of Northallerton 1654 and 1666-75. Rector of Kirby Sigston 1669. Dean of Ripon 1675.

<sup>3</sup> Anthony Elcock. D.D. Brasenose, Oxford. Succentor 1660. Subdean and Preb. 1660. Rector of Kirkheaton 1662-70. Rector of Methley 1660-71.

Church, which was then got to a very great sum, yet we were then but five Residentiarys.

But if there be six or more it will so miserably lessen S. Peter's part that it can never bear half the charges incumbent on that share, and must in time silence the Choir or ruine the Preb Residentiarys.

I never knew S. Peter's part able to defray its charge all my time, except in the vacancy in part of which we had but 4 Residentiarys, and had perquisites, whereof S. Peter had a share: for I am sure his right was maintained and his account as duly stated and payd all my time, as any Residentiarys whatsoever.

Endorsed.

Memoirs of my dear Master's concerning.  
y<sup>o</sup> sute of y<sup>o</sup> Resedencarys at yorke.

In another hand.

Memoranda of D<sup>r</sup> Comber relating to the Chapter of York.

## Enchiridion Tho. Comber D.D.<sup>1</sup>

Alias, Regulae piae Conversationis, e MSS. T.C. D.D. Dec: Dunelm.  
excerptae.

Piae cogitationes mane mentem occupent et foveantur.

Occasiones diei instantis serio perpendendae.

Ferventi oratione anima ornanda et armanda.

Illecebrae peccandi et opportunitates studiose fugiendae.

In solitudine cogitationes, in societate sermones, ad res divinas, et  
ad utilitatem sui ipsius et aliorum, dirigantur.

Nulla occasio beneficiendi omittenda.

Meditando de morte tua disce contemnere mundana omnia.

Ante somnum revolve omnia dicta et facta praeteritae diei.

Hoc solemniter faciendum semel in septimo die in scriptis.

Diem dominicum in animam tuam totum impende.

Sacra coena saepius et devote sumenda.

Ardenti prece quaelibet dies claudenda.

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. William Comber, vicar of Kirkby Moorside, the dean's grandson, thought this to have been composed about the thirtieth year of the dean's life.

## Notes about his Money Matters

Since I came to Durham I have built one intire building of 18 yards long & 8 broad from the ground floor, containing 4 very good rooms & a stair case covered with lead	400 . 00 . 00	The Deanry (Taxes payd) is never above 1000 <sup>t</sup> p An- num.
Newfloored very many rooms, repair'd a long passage & the lesser & greater kitchens, whited & glased most of the house anew And lately taken down a whole roof of 17 yards long & 7 Br <sup>d</sup> : New leaded it glased it, floored and divided it into a very fine gallery and three very good chambers w <sup>ch</sup> lay utterly wast before	300 . 00 . 00	Suppose I have recd 8000 I have only layd out in pro- viding for my family in 8 yeers time But 2570 <sup>t</sup>
The gardens & all the out- houses in number ten, were all ruinous, which I have repaired : & built 2 new rooms without the house, for a storehouse and the steward	200 . 00 . 00.	And my own estate hath been ever since I was Dean 300 <sup>t</sup> p An: w <sup>ch</sup> answers 2400 <sup>t</sup> and would have answered the whole Pur- chase mony within 100 <sup>t</sup> (w <sup>ch</sup> I now owe)

The furniture of this house wainscoting a dining room & the great room (being a very large building containing 24 Rooms some of which are very capacious, cost me besides what I brought thither	600 . 00 . 00.	So that upon the whole I have spent the intire income of the Deanry ever since I enjoyed it and not got 100 <sup>t</sup> by it
My Table & Stables alone cost me every yeer as I can demonstrate	600 . 00 . 00	I keep one living of 80 <sup>t</sup> clear p Ann : in my hands
I give fresh meat of the value of 10 <sup>d</sup> p week to the Prisoners & broken meat to the poor twice a week at my door	460 460	And there I have layd out above 300 <sup>t</sup> in building a new house from the ground & purchasing ground for an orchard &c & note that everything has been built as new by me besides Barns stables & all out houses.
Besides my share in the public charitys of that generous Church, w <sup>ch</sup> is double & my own private Charity w <sup>ch</sup> I will not name.	800 850	
I have more strangers dine with me & poor people with my servants than any Dean within memory, & have promoted all Acts of public Charity as much as any Man ever did in my station		I have payd & lost by a deserving family at least 2000 <sup>t</sup> w <sup>ch</sup> neither Law nor equity could compel me to & had riches been my design I can proove I might have been worth 4000 <sup>t</sup> more than I am now.

## Memorials of the Combers

*Memorial to Thomas Comber, D.D.*

A black marble slab in Stonegrave Church (on the floor of the choir).

M.S.

Siste, Viator, gradum

Morae non erit dispendium Scire

Quanti Viri venerandos premis Cineres

Exuvias Mortales

(Perenniori faelicitati maturas)

Heic deponi voluit

Thomas Comber. S.T.P. Grande nomen!

(Pluribus haud opus)

Vir

Pietate, Eruditione, Ingenio, Judicio

Caeterisque Animi Dotibus

Clarus

(Majora vero fingentem

non audis Panegyrim)

Ob S<sup>tæ</sup> Matris Ecclesiae Angl: Causam

Quoad Doctrinam, Cultum, Disciplinam, Patrimonium,

Contra Novatores omnes

Scriptis

Feliciter defensam

Dignus haud Simplici Marmore

Gulielmo et Mariae

Principibus illustrissimis

a Sacris

Ecclesiae Dunelmensis per decennium

(Brevi nimis)

Decanus

Ad Maxima quaeque Capessenda idoneus

Adque altiora Munera promovendus  
 Nisi publicis Votis obstitisset Mors invida  
 Plura (licet Meritis debita)  
 Non capiet Marmor.  
 Probis Omnibus luctum et sui desiderium relinquens  
 Decessit Vicesimo quinto die Novembris  
 Anno { Salutis MDCLXXXXIX  
 { Aetatis LV.  
 Proiectiore Senio  
 (Modo visum Deo)  
 Dignus.

*Memorial to William Comber and Mrs. Alice Comber*  
 Brass on the north side of the sanctuary in Stonegrave Church.

Here lyeth  
 the Body of Will: the Son  
 of Tho : Comber. D.D; late Dean  
 of Durham who died March  
 IV. MDCCII in the XVIII year of  
 his age, a youth of rare and  
 uncommon parts.

Here lyeth  
 The Body of Alice the wife  
 of Tho : Comber DD late Dean of  
 Durham, who died Jan XX  
 MDCCXX in the 67 year of her  
 age: she made serving God  
 and doing good the pleasure and  
 business of her life.

*Memorial to Mrs. James Comber (the Dean's mother)*  
 Brass in Stonegrave Church (on south side of the Sanctuary).  
 In the left-hand margin of this brass the three shields of arms,  
 side by side, of Hamden, Burton, and Comber, and underneath, a  
 small genealogical tree:—

Edward Hamden Gent 1 <sup>st</sup> Husband 1630	Mrs Mary Comber had two husbands.	James Comber Gent, 2 <sup>d</sup> Husband died 1670
Mrs Mary Hamden Wife of Tho puck <sup>le</sup> Gent		
James Comber 1 <sup>st</sup> son marry <sup>d</sup> Ms Han Harper.	Thomas Comber clark 2 <sup>d</sup> son married Ms Alice Thornton	Anne Comber dyed April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1660 aged 7 y.
	Shield, Comber, impaling Thornton <sup>1</sup>	

## Hic Sita est

Maria Filia Bryani Burton  
 De Westerham in Com : Cantii  
 Uxor Jacobi, Mater Tho : Comber,  
 Rectoris hujus Ecclesia  
 Forma, Vultu, Pietate insignis  
 Quae hujusce profecta Filium visura,  
 Abhinc'ad Patriam caelestem revocata rediit  
 Maii 13<sup>o</sup> An Dom MDCLXXII, Aet : su : LII<sup>o</sup>  
 Hoc ultimum, Lector a te postulans  
 Ut Sepulchro quiescat inviolato  
 Nec aperiatur Monumentum hoc Nisi Voce Christi  
 Cujus Adventum placide expectat.

Memoria justorum } { Posuit filius amantissimus  
 erit benedicta } { Doloris speiq : plenus. T.C.

<sup>1</sup> Argent, a chevron *sable* between three thorn trees proper. Thornton.

## The Will of Thomas Comber

In the name of God. Amen. I Thomas Comber DD Dean of Durham being in good health and perfect memory yet considering my mortality do make this my last Will and Testament comending my soul to God who gave it through Jesus Christ, and my body to be buried either in the Cathedrall at Durham or in the Choir of Stonegrave, at the discretion of my Executrix. And as to the worldly estate wherewith God hath blessed me my Will is that it shall be disposed of in manner following viz first that Alice my dear wife according to the settlement of the manor of East Newton dated Aug. 3. 1692 shall have the whole profits of that estate during her naturall life (except her Mother's Annuity while it shall continue to be due) & while she continues my widow. I do also give her all the rents issues and proffits of my farme at Nether Dunsforth and of my free rents payable out of Rookburgh & Preston in Holderness as also out of my leases of Useburne and Clifton Ings in Yorkshire and of my Havermatts at Billingham, and my farmehold at Ferryhill in the County of Durham for the better maintaining her selfe and her children by me, untill they shall severally attaine to the age of twenty & one years, and after their respective attaining that age my said dear wife shall have to her owne use all the surplusage of those rents and proffits aforesaid which remaine over and above the severall annuitys by this will hereafter given to my children & my Niece Mary Puckle for their severall and respective maintenances Unless she marry again in which case all y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid rents of my estate (Newton excepted) shall be paid to Mr Charles Man Rector of Gilling, Mr Roger Store Rector of Nunnington who in case of my wives death or marrying again I do nominate and appoint trustees and guardians for my said children which rents and profits so by them received shall be to & for the use of my said children to be divided among them so as each of them may have first the sums allotted to them by this my last Will, and the surplusage to be equally divided

among them all. Also I doe give unto my said dear wife one third part of all my household goods and personall estate (my leases excepted) after my debts legacies & funerall expences are paid and discharged to her owne proper use provided she take care out of the profits to pay the out rents and when occasion requires to renew the leases of Useburne Clifton Ings & Ferryhill farme while she receives the profits of the same and I do hereby constitute and appoint my sd dear wife the sole executrix of this my last Will & during her widdowhood also the guardian of my children. Secondly as to my eldest son William I do give him y<sup>e</sup> reversion of the Mannor of East Newton after his mother's decease according to the settlement thereof & during his mother's life, I likewise give him the sume of sixty pounds per annum for his education & maintenance, that is to say twenty pounds per an : out of my farme at Nether Dunsforth, & forty pounds per an : out of my lease at Useburne to be paid at Pentecost & Martinmas or within twenty days after either of the said days the first payment at the first of those pay days which shall happen after his attaining the age of one & twenty years or after his mother's decease or marrying again. And I also give him the reversion of my farme at Nether Dunsforth he paying all that which I have charged by this my last Will And if he shall freely enter into Holy Orders I give unto him all my books provided that he pay unto my son Thomas the sum of fifty pounds in money or allow him books out of my Study to the value of sixty pounds to be rated by a fit person indifferently chosen between them. But if William do not enter into orders & my son Thomas do then my said son Thomas shall have all my books, paying his Brother William fifty pounds in money or sixty in books rated as above is said, & if neither of them be Ordained my books shall be equally divided between them giving their sisters books to the value of ten pounds each. Thirdly as to my eldest daughter Alice I do give unto her for her maintenance thirty pounds per ann : out of my farme at Ferryhill, to be paid at Pentecost & Martinmas which shall first happen after my decease untill she be twentyone years of age or marry with consent of her Mother or Guardians & from & after such marriage or attaining to one & twenty years of age she shall enter upon the whole farme aforesaid & take all the rents & profits of it as part of her portion to her owne proper use. And if I do not otherwise in

my life time provide for her to the value of 500£ more at least, I do hereby give unto her as an addition to her portion the sume of 500£ to be raised out of my farme at Nether Dunsforth after her mother's decease, & in the mean time she shall receive from the time of her marriage the Interest of the said 500£ at the rate of five per Cent out of the surplusage of the rents of Dunsforth & Useburne aforesaid & at her Mothers decease the heire of East Newton shall pay y<sup>e</sup> principall sum of 500£ to my said daughter Alice. And he shall then enter upon so much of Dunsforth as is not otherwise charged in this my last Will. And I do also give unto my said daughter one third part of my household goods & personall estate leases excepted and my debts & legacies & funerall expenses first paid to her own proper use & behoofe And as to my household goods I do appoint any two of the trustees abovenamed to divide them into three parts giving my dear wife the first choice, my daughter Alice the second, & my daughter Mary the last share. Fourthly as to my daughter Mary I give her the sume of 25£ per an: out of the rents at Rookburgh Preston Clifton Ings & my farme at Nether Dunsforth to be paid at Pentecost or Martinmas which shall first happen after her attaining the age of 21 years untill she marry with consent of her Mother or guardians and when she so marrys she shall enter upon & take to her owne use in part of her portion all the rents & profits of Rookburgh Preston & Clifton Ings and if I do not otherwise in my life time provide for her to the value of 500£ more I do hereby give unto her as a further addition to her portion the summe of 500£ that is to say 300£ to be paid by the heire of East Newton after his mother's decease & 200£ by my son Thomas when (upon the decease of his Mother) he shall enter upon the possession of Useburne, & in the mean time she shall receive from the time of her marriage by consent as aforesaid untill the principall be paid in as before directed the full interest of the said 500£ after the rate of five per Cent out of the surplusage of the rents of my whole estate if the said rents will so far extend. Finally I give unto my said daughter Mary the last third part of my personall estate & household goods (leases excepted) to her own proper use & behoofe after her marriage by consent as above her mother's death or her attaining the age of one & twenty years wch shall first happen. Fifthly as to my son Thomas I give him the summe of 40£ per annum for his Educacon

& maintenance out of the proffits of a lease I have taken in his name of the Chapter of Durham of the Havermatts of Billingham in the sd County & the rest to be made up out of the rents of Useburne to be paid at Candlemas & Lammes or within twenty days after the first payment to be made the first of y<sup>e</sup> said feasts which shall happen after his attaining the age of 21 years or after his mother's decease or marrying again. And at the time of his mother's death he shall within six months pay or sufficiently secure to his sister Mary the sume of 200£ charged above upon Useburne unless I pay it before & then he shall enter upon the said lease of Useburne & take all the rents & profits thereof to his own proper use. Finally I give him such interest in my books & upon such conditions as are before declared in the provision for my son William. Sixthly it is my will that if either of my sons shall dye without issue before they be 21 years of age the surviving son shall have the Mannor of East Newton clear of all payments after the Grandmother's and Mother's decease & shall then also enter upon the farme at Nether Dunsforth paying unto his two sisters the sum of £100 each. And in that case such son shall also have the remainder of the terme of the Haver-matts at Billingham & my eldest daughter Alice shall enter upon & have to her own proper use upon the death of either of her Brothers the whole rents of my lease at Useburne she first paying or sufficiently securing unto my daughter Mary the sume of 500£ out of the same unless she chuse rather to have 600£ paid her & assigne the whole lease of Useburne to her said sister But if it happen either of my daughters shall dye unmarryed before they attaine the age of 21 years the Survivor of my said daughters or her issue shall have all the deceased sister's share allotted by this my last will Provided such surviving Sister pay first unto her Mother (if she be then living) the summe of 100£ to her owne use, & the sume of 200£ charged on Useburne & 300£ charged on Nether Dunsforth shall in that case be discharged & released to William & Thomas the Brothers of such surviving Sister & if it shall happen that one of my said Sons & one of my daughters shall dye before they have issue or be 21 years of age then such surviving son shall have East Newton Dunsforth & the remaining terme in the Havermatts clear & the surviving daughter shall have all my estate at Useburne Ferry Hill, Rookburgh, Preston & Clifton Ings to her owne proper use paying or securing to her

Mother the sume of 25£ per annum for her life if she always continue my widdow or 30£ per annum for her life though she marry again. Lastly I give and bequeath out of my personall estate & the surplusage of the rents abovesaid to my niece Mary Puckle the sume of 10£ per annum to be paid her till her marriage or the death of my wife or till she receive from my Executrix or heires the sume of 100£ of lawfull money of England. Also I give 10£ more to her sister Anne my god-daughter and 10£ each to my dear Mother Madam Thornton & my Brother M<sup>r</sup> James Comber to buy them mourning (if they be then living) also to James & Mary children of my said Brother & to my Sister his wife each one ginney to buy them rings and also to M<sup>r</sup> Man & M<sup>r</sup> Store aforesaid my Trustees aforesaid each a ginney to buy them rings and I give and bequeath 20£ to the poor of the City of Durham To the poor of the parishes of Stonegrave and Thornton in Yorkshire & of Westram in Kent 10£ to each parish: and I do hereby publish & declare this to be my true & sole last Will & Testament hereby revoking & annulling all other & former Wills & Testaments whatsoeuer. In witness whereof I have herewith set my hand & scale this tenth day of March Anno Dni 1696/7.

Tho : Comber

Signed Sealed published & declared in the presence of John Smith  
Robert Leeke John Rowell Norie Publique

A Codicil to be annexed to my last Will. Whereas in my last will dated March 10, 1696/7 I have charged my estate with 500£ to my daughter Alice & with 500£ more to my daughter Mary if I did not otherwise provide that sume for each of them during my life it is hereby declared that I have lodged the sume of 460£ upon William Pearson's farme at Ferryhill & the sume of 800£ upon Alding-grange which make 1260£ of which I give the sume of 500£ to make up the sume of 500£ to make up the sume promised to my daughter Mary & the interest thereof for her maintenance from my death till she be one and twenty years of age, or marry with her mother's consent in lieu of the 25£ per annum menconed for her maintenance in my Will. And I give the sume of 760£ to my daughter Alice in lieu of the 500£ addition to her portion meconed in my Will as also 10£ per annum out of the interest thereof to make her main-

tenance 40£ per annum & the residue of the Interest of the said 760£ I would have go forward as an increase to her portion from the time of my decease till the said Alice marry with her mother's consent. And it is my desire that this may be published as a Codicill and be annexed to my last Will. Witness my hand & seale this 12th day of Aprill 1699. Tho: Comber.

Witness hereof Charles Man, Senior, Charles Hutchinson, Joseph Dixon

Copy: Jo: Webster

25th October 1700. Recd the originall will

Alice Comber

Witness Roger Store

*Prerogative Act Book*

1700 Nov: 27. Pr: Will of Thomas Comber. S.T.P. Dean of Durham & Tuition of Alice, William, Mary & Thomas his children granted to Alice their Mother. No Inventory.

## York

1700. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 3 Alice Comber of Usburn, Co Ebor, widow & Robert Kitchen of the same gave bond in 2000£ to prove the will of Thomas Comber D.D. late Dean of Durham.

Witness Charles Man.

1700 Oct. 25. Alice Comber gave bond to produce the original will of her husband.

Witnesses Roger Store

Charles Hutchinson

The first document was sealed with the late Dean's seal bearing the arms of Comber impaling Thornton.

# An Interleaved Almanac (Gallen's 1674) with Notes by Thomas Comber

*Copy presented by Mr. Pounder to Minster Library, York*

This contains *Notes on current events*, e.g.:

Jan 7. Parl: began.

Feb. 24. Parlme prorogud.

*Ecclesiastical Affairs* eg. a visitation on Monday & Tuesday April 4th & 5th which cost him 9s. 7d.

*Domestic Affairs* e.g.

Jan 15. Set Pease in Orchard.

25. Qr of Charcole.

March 18. Rest of pease and beans set.

30. Set rest of garden seeds.

Apr. 14. Set French beans and scarlet.

Aug-Sept. Robert Robinson began to saw bords Aug: 31: and sawed with Blackbeard & Warrener to Sept. 7: then omitted till Sept: 14: & then began with James Turner.

*Personal memoranda.*

Aug. Sir Rich: Graham hath of my books

(1) Eusebius.<sup>1</sup>

(2) History of the Iron Age.<sup>2</sup>

(3) Baxter of Schisme.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eusebius of Caesarea, c. 260 to c. 340. *Ecclesiastical History* to the year 323. *Chronicon*—a history of the world down to 328.

<sup>2</sup> *The Historie of the Iron Age*, wherein is set down the true state of Europe as it was in the year 1500. By J. Nicolas de Parival. Translated by B. Harris. Second edition, London, 1659.

<sup>3</sup> Baxter on Schism. Baxter wrote *Cure of Church Divisions*, 1670, *Defence of the Principles of Love*, a continuation of the former, 1671, and *Sacrilegious Desertion of the Holy Ministry*, 1672.

I have of his  
 Cathedral Churches.<sup>1</sup>  
 Corpus Juris Civilis.<sup>2</sup>  
 Vinnius de Institutis.<sup>3</sup>  
 Selden's Titles of honour.<sup>4</sup>  
 Blome Britannia.<sup>5</sup>

Sept. 1<sup>lb</sup> doub: refined sugar.  
 1<sup>lb</sup> pouder sugar.  
 wife's shoes.  
 Canonical girdle.  
 Commandements.  
 stud: gown.  
 watch.  
 spir: courke.  
 search Spelman's glossary & m<sup>r</sup> Taylors booke.<sup>6</sup>  
 Heylin Cosmog.<sup>7</sup>  
 Quire paper.  
 London Glew, I ounce.  
 a q<sup>r</sup> yard bl: sarsnet :

<sup>1</sup> *A Book of the Cathedral and Conventual Churches of England and Wales* exactly drawn and cut in copper by D.K. Second impression 1672.

<sup>2</sup> Justinian's compilations, the *Institutes*, the *Digest*, and the *Code* with the *Novels*, form what has been known since 1582 as the *Corpus Juris Civilis*.

<sup>3</sup> Arnold Vinnius, Professor of Law at the University of Leyden, wrote *Commentarius in Quatuor Libros Institutionum*. The second edition in 4to was published at the Elzevir Press at Amsterdam in 1655. There was a later edition in 1761.

<sup>4</sup> John Selden, *Titles of Honour*, 1621.

<sup>5</sup> Blome's *Britannia*, "a more correct Geographical Description of his Majesties Dominions, with Maps and Alphabetical Tables of the Nobility and Gentry that each County of England and Wales is ennobled with, then hath been hitherto undertaken by any," 1673.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Henry Spelman. *Archæologus*. In modum glossarii ad rem antiquam posteriorem continentis Latino-barbara, peregrina, obsoleta et novatae significations vocabula. Pt. I, 1626. The complete work, edited by W. Dugdale, was published in 1664 under the title *Glossarium Archæologicum*.

<sup>7</sup> Peter Heylin, *Cosmographie* in four books, containing the horography and history of the whole world, 1652.

In October occurs a note on the *school at Stonegrave*, apparently a list of the children and their fees.

Mr Butler 1 lasse	01 : 00 : 00
John Hicke 2 children	00 : 16 : 00
Tho: Swan 3 children	01 : 04 : 00
Mathew Swan 1 child	00 : 08 : 00
Tho: Harrison 2 children	00 : 16 : 00
Anthony Fryerson 1	00 : 04 : 00
James Turner 1	00 : 04 : 00
John Belwood 1	00 : 04 : 00
W. Wetheril 2	08
John Simpson 1	04
Wid: Hicks 1	04
T. Playfoot 1	04
An: Lawson 1	04
Peg: Lawson 1	04
Jane Swan 1	04
Wetheril 1	04
W Pirket 1	08

05 : 12 : 00

*Various Accounts.*

Mr Tully 1672.	s. d
To pay. For a gate	12 : 00
For lambs 4 at 3 <sup>6</sup> d	14 : 00
For 15 Days mowing 2 acres	
corn	01 : 00 : 00
Easter Reckonings.	00 : 01 : 00
	<u>2 : 7 :</u>
Received Octob: 15 : 72	01 : 10 : 00
more	00 : 10 : 00
This 10 <sup>th</sup> was Recd Novemb: 21 :	
1672—I thinke for a former gate.	
More Octob: 24 : 73.	01 : 07 : 00
Layd down an Asesmt	00 : 05 : 08
For this year 1673	<u>3 : 02 : 08</u>
more :	15 : 08

	s d
To pay: A gate	13 : 4
A Calfe.	09 : 00
Gill—Lands gate	09 : 00
Easter Reckon	00 : 10
	—————
	01 : 12 : 02
Rec <sup>d</sup> of this	15 : 08
	—————
To pay Still.	16 : 02
Richard Thompson	Mar : 26.
	£
Hath pd in Mony	06 : 00 : 00
one Asesment	00 : 05 : 08
M <sup>r</sup> Tully for him <sup>1</sup>	01 : 12 : 00
M <sup>r</sup> Whitfeild	00 : 13 : 04
	—————
	08 : 11 : 00
He ows Mar : 26	01 : 19 : 00
	—————
& more	10 : 10 : 00

Here is another account, dated December :

Decemb : 7 : To Edward Charges—Yorke	02 : 6
pd Wetherill	01 : 06
Franke : Eggs & bread	00 : 09
To Jo : Denton, Wine at Malton	03 : 00
To Edward 2 <sup>d</sup> time Wine &c	05 : 00
To Wetherill for a bottle	00 : 04
16. To Mathew Swan Ale w D <sup>r</sup> here	01 : 06
18. To Daphne <sup>2</sup> for bread & cakes	01 : 00

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Humphrey Tully of Westnesse died January 1682-3. See Introduction, p. xxi.

<sup>2</sup> Daphne. Daphne Carrell, servant to Mrs. Thornton's mother, Dame Alice Wandesford of Hipswell, who died 10 January 1658. She was with Mrs. Thornton for some time after Mr. Thornton's death and was present at Comber's private wedding. She married George Lightfoot, another servant of Dame Alice. She seems to have become a friend and confidante to Mrs. Thornton.

Due to Mrs Thornton

Fer. 27 threave<sup>1</sup> of straw by Paddison

Fer. threave by Rich: Wilkinson.

Fer. Leading stones straw & Morter

Jo: Simpson pd by her for some palling

*Books begun or Finished*

Jan. 1. M<sup>r</sup> Poole: 3<sup>d</sup> Vol begun.<sup>2</sup>

2 Melchior Adam de vitis Germ. Theol. beg.<sup>3</sup>

12 Beveregii Pandecta<sup>4</sup>

& Gatakeri Cinnus.<sup>5</sup>

Institutiones, Digest. Cod. &c. partes Leg: Civilis.<sup>6</sup>

S<sup>d</sup> Aug 1<sup>st</sup> & vi Volumes

Finished.

Jan: 5: Spelman de sepultura<sup>7</sup>

9. Gataker's Sermons<sup>8</sup>

Feb Theodoreti Therapeuticon<sup>9</sup> ad Graecos.

28 2 Books agt Popery

Mr Geor Chancellors ag<sup>t</sup> Cressy<sup>10</sup>

28 3 Book agt Popery Reflexions upon Romish Devotions<sup>11</sup>  
Roman Forgeries.<sup>12</sup>

Barclais Argenis<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Threave or thrave, the product of every tenth acre; also 24 sheaves of wheat.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Poole, *Synopsis Criticorum*, 5 vols. 1669-76.

<sup>3</sup> Melchior Adam, *Vitae Theologorum Germanorum*. Frankfort. 1618.

<sup>4</sup> William Beveridge, *Synodicon, sive Pandectae Canonum S.S. Apostolorum et Conciliorum ab Ecclesia Graeca Receptorum*. 2 vols. 1672.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Gataker, *Cinnus sive Adversaria Miscellanea*. 1651.

<sup>6</sup> Justinian's *Institutes* etc.

<sup>7</sup> Sir Henry Spelman, *De Sepultura*. 1641.

<sup>8</sup> These were published in folio 1647.

<sup>9</sup> Theodoret (c. 393-c. 457), *Ellenikon Therapeutike Pathematon Graecarum Affectionum Curatio*.

<sup>10</sup> Hugh Paulinus Cressey (in religion Serenus), 1605-74, published his *Church History of Britanny or England* in two parts. Part I 1668. The work referred to here seems to be *Animadversions upon a book entitled Fanaticism fanatically imputed to the Catholic Church*, by Dr. Stillingfleet, and *The Impputation refuted and restored by S.C.* By a Person of Honour, 1674. The Person of Honour was Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, formerly Lord Chancellor.

<sup>11</sup> *Reflexions upon the Devotions of the Roman Church*. In three parts. Also two Digressions concerning the Reliques and Miracles in Mr. Cressey's late *Church History*.

<sup>12</sup> *Roman Forgeries*, by Thomas Traherne. 1673.

<sup>13</sup> John Barclay, *Argenis*. 1621.

Mar. 5. Gatakeri Cinnus

April: 16. Falkner Defence of the Liturgy<sup>1</sup>

*Notes of a sermon.*

*Notes concerning certain property*

[Written in pencil. Driffield Edward Pennock of Broughton.]

12 mile beyond Malton

magna & Parva<sup>2</sup>

cleise Lord of both

Aboute 9 score pounds a yeer this yeer.

38 oxgangs of land 16 Acres to an Oxgang

Only one Husbandry house inhabited by

Barbary Bradley widdow who farmes

5 Oxgang

The rest let dispersed to other Tenants

most corn this year

A few cottages at little Driffield

1 John Chapman

another Will Smith

3 a poor fellow

4 stalls for Fairs

Besides this many free Rents pd off the 180<sup>l</sup> p A

Shee hath lately recovered 100<sup>l</sup> p Annū

meddow & pasture of m<sup>r</sup> Crompton

let also to severall no house on it.

One M<sup>r</sup> Yern or Heron of Beverley oweth

bet 7 & 8<sup>l</sup> p Annū free Rents & now in sute.

Gates<sup>3</sup>

Tho. Barber 8: or 10

Rich Lambert 3 y: b & fole

G. Coulters 8: y Beast

<sup>1</sup> William Falkner, *Libertas Ecclesiastica*, or, A Discourse vindicating the lawfulness of those things which are chiefly excepted against in the Church of England, especially in its Liturgy and Worship and manifesting their agreeableness with the Doctrine and Practice both of Ancient and Modern Churches. 1673. Reprinted 1674 and 1677.

<sup>2</sup> The Magna and Parva refer to Driffield and Little Driffield.

<sup>3</sup> A gate, or gait, was the right to pasture one beast on common, or on open field arable land.

Tho : Nightgale	I more
M <sup>r</sup> Spinke	20 g
M <sup>r</sup> Metcalfe	7 : g.
Tho : Snowdon	10 : g.
Fra : Oldfeild	1 : g.
J : Hay	1 : g.
Farndale	4 : 7 : $\frac{1}{2}$
Kendricke :	4.

Laystrop  
barne

July 15 <sup>th</sup>	pd for getting up stones	04 : 00
	pd then Earnest 1 <sup>s</sup> : to give 2 <sup>r</sup> p. Rood	01 : 00
25	Pd Ned Wilson then	10 : 00
Aug 15.	pd him getting up stones	03 : 00
	& for worke	05 : 00
Sept 27 :	pd him for worke more	02 : 06
30	pd him more viz : 10 Rood	02 : 06
Octob 1.	pd more for the gable end	02 : 06
8	pd 2 Carpenters 3 : 0 worke & nails	03 : 06
19	pd him Calfe house	02 : 06

Octob : 26 : 1 : 15 : 06

Decemb : 5 :	The Calfe house was 3 Rood & } 1 half at 2 <sup>s</sup> p Rood 1 : e : 7 <sup>s</sup> in all & } 6 <sup>d</sup> left of the barn : so pd Ed Wilson in all } and lent him	00 : 05 : 00
Novemb.	pd Thatcher 4 Days	00 : 04 : 00
Decemb : 19.	pd Bridge mony this qt	00 : 03 : 09
Decemb 28	pd Mosse & Thatcher 5 days	03 : 03

*Sketch of a memorial to two infants in Sheriff Hutton church.*

*Notes on the Litany.*

There are later entries in this book by other hands.

## Letters

I. T.C. to MRS. THORNTON.<sup>1</sup>

Stonegrave Novemb. 26. 1664

MADAM.

Where we are certifyed of our own want and the freenesse of a bestowed Courtesy to supply it it is rather foolish nicety than Commendable Modesty to refuse it, which persuaded me first to accept of with thankfulness, and now to send for the Fuell which M<sup>r</sup> Thornton was pleased to promise, and your Lady<sup>shp</sup> to prepare for me, requesting you withall that you would give order to some of your servants to asist our men in the loading of it for the more speedy dispatch: Though I will not compare myself with that Prophet I will liken you to that Shunamite 2 Kings 4: 8: whose Charity ran parralel with her greatnesse, and pray that your wants and desires may be supplied from the throne of grace: having a good promise for the Foundation of my Faith in this petition Math: 10: 41 where we may without trespassse turne (he) into the Fe'inine (shee that &c), Were I able to recompense your inexpressible Favors it would make your Charity lesse excellent and hinder a better Returne which I desire and hope you will Receive from him who though he possessth all things Confesseth himselfe a debtor on this account and engageth Restitution Proverbs: 19: 17: though that shall not disanul my gratitude but I will ever Remain

Your gratefull servant in Christ Jesus  
Tho: Comber.

To M<sup>dm</sup> Thornton at Newton, presents

Endorsed in Mrs. Thornton's handwriting:

"Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Comber to M<sup>rs</sup> Thornton returning thanks for Fuell &c  
Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 1664 (No 1)"

"Mr Combers of y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> no 64 concerning fuell

<sup>1</sup> In the possession of Mr. R. H. J. Comber.

And his note for y<sup>e</sup> Antient Coynes<sup>1</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> I gave him to be restord to  
my sonne Robert Thornt December 5th 1664 Stongrav (No 1)"

2. T.C. TO MR. MATTHEW POOLE<sup>2</sup>

REVEREND SIR.

The first account we receiv'd of your ingenious undertaking, did so exceedingly please us, that we resolv'd to take the first opportunity to expresse our great valew for so worthy a designe, by our ready subscriptions, and our utmost endeavours to encourage others. Nor were we ever the more backward for Mr C. Bee's<sup>3</sup> opposition, but ever believed these delays might be advantageous both to you and to us, as being likely to afforde you more time for the polishing off so accomp. a peice, than the importunate desires of your friends to have it publish'd would have allowed you, if there had been no impediment. Wherefore, though none could more importunately desire it finish'd than we, yet we would rather deny ourselves the satisfaction of those desires, than have the synopsis want that exacte survey which it must needs gain by lyinge so long under your industrious hands: and we question not, but many things tending to make it more compleate and usefull, will by this means occur to your minde. But our greatest hopes are, that by this means you will gain time to make *an exacte indexe* to the whole: the want of which in Mr Bee's crit. we, and all our acquaintance that ever used them, are sorely sensible of. Though you infinitely exceed them in the convenience of your method, yet we are apt to feare (if you now omit it) the usefulness of it also in your synopsis will afterwards so far appear, as to put some upon the contrivance of it, who will have neither the opportunity nor ability that you have to compose it, which will as well be prejudicial to yourselfe as to your subscribers. We cannot imagine how any person that would know all that is said of the same head, shall guesse where this word or phrase is explained,

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Thornton had lent him some ancient coins and medals, and Comber wrote some verses in praise of them.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, pp. 51-55. The Rev. Matthew Poole (1624-1679), author of *Synopsis Criticorum Bibliorum* in five volumes, the last of which appeared in 1676.

<sup>3</sup> Cornelius Bee had published in 1660 a work entitled *Critici Sacri; sive Doctissimorum Virorum in S.S. Biblia Annotationes et Tractatus*. This was in nine folio volumes.

unlesse by tedious references at every place where the said word or phrase shall be repeated: and if you shall dispose your observations to those texts where your authors handle them, we humbly conceive many of them will be undiscover'd without the help of an indexe.

We chose rather to run the hazard of putting these lines into your hands, than to suffer a matter of this moment to be forgotten, while the sheets are as yet but preparing for the impression. That which made us most unwilling to present these considerations, was the trouble they will devolve upon you in the composition, though it should be deferred to the last of all: but we hope you will be pleased to consider the vast trouble you will hcreby save many hundreds of your friends, and the great obligations you will lay upon all those, whose affections and prayers you always have with your worke: and, by the inclinations to this indexe we find in all our acquaintance, we are bold to promise you, it will be extremely acceptable to all.

. Sir, we think it not improbable that your laborious and judicious collections should swell under your hands, so as to leave a reserve for a fourth volume, which your friends here desire, rather than that any thinge necessary shoulde be omitted or obscur'd by too much brevity: and we believe if you please to add an indexe to this fourth volume, there are none of your subscribers, but would rather advance double the price of that addition, than lose so considerable an advantage to the whole.

If the indexe should not make the fourth volume proportional to the rest, we make bold to request, that you would contrive to introduce, a briefe series of the harmony, order, and chronology of the whole bible, and adde a briefe account of those useful and excellent discourses, in the beginninge of the polyglotte, and end of the crit. maj. aboute versions, weightes, measures, customs, &c. which, if they coulde be inserted, woulde adde a greate lustre to this excellente worke, and make it the moste comprehensive and usefull piece of this nature that ever was written on holy scripture.<sup>1</sup> But we leave this as an appendix to our former proposal, which we (knowing you are not deterred by the difficulty of any designe) have some good hopes you may please to consider off; and however our

<sup>1</sup> In the "Advertisement" prefixed to the last volume of the *Synopsis* Poole said that "he had constantly kept in view" what was recommended in the above letter, "as the chief use and intention of an index."

desires to be unknown make us conceal our names, yet if you shall honour us with the returne of a few lines, without any superscription, inclos'd in a cover to Mr H. E. Cox, in Peter-gate, Yorke, who is also one of your subscribers, it will come safe to our hands. In the mean time we commit yourselfe and labours to the blessinge of the Almighty, and whether known or conceal'd, we humbly request you to esteeme us, though but in the inferior classes of them that professe themselves

Your hearty well-wishers

Ebor. June 2<sup>d</sup>  
MDCLXVIII

And faithful servants  
PHILO-POLOI.

3. MRS. THORNTON TO MRS COMBER. 23rd January 1668/9

Written to Comber's mother on the occasion of Comber's marriage to Mrs. Thornton's daughter. See *Autobiography of Mrs. Thornton*, Surtees Society, no. 62, pp. 298-9.

4. MRS. COMBER TO MRS. THORNTON. 20th February 1669

*Ibid.*, 300-301.

5. JAMES COMBER TO T.C.

remembered write to you and to your wife and Mother in Law Maddam Thornton hopinge in the Lord that you are in good health as I and your Mother are at present I received a letter from you this 2<sup>d</sup> of July and am very glad that you returned home safe and well your Mother and I give you many thankes for your kind vissitinge of us at our own house if you had brought your wife with you shee should have been very welcome wee should have been very glad to have . . . hir and for to injoy hir company, when you come into the South pray bringe hir alonge

with you your Mother I thinke will come doun to see you and your wife and to wait upon your mother in law Maddam Thornton About Aprill next if God gives helth but for my self I cannot spare so much time as yet as to take such a longe journey to you and so having no more at present but I pray God bles you all

your loving Father

James Comber.

12<sup>th</sup> July 70

For Mr Thomas Comber at Stonegrave this.

6. T.C. TO ? SANCROFT<sup>1</sup>

REVEREND S<sup>x</sup>

Your speedy removall from these Northern Parts<sup>2</sup> hath often been lamented by my selfe and many others, who promised our selves much happiness in your Residence among us, and as to my Particular I could not hope to have felt the influences of your Charity at so greate a distance, and did despaire of a possibility of being made known to you; but I see tis hard to describe the Circumference of that sphere in which true goodnesse Acts, the Rayes whereoff do often reach the most distant and obscure Corners: but the lesse I expected those exposed Papers (which I had not confidence to owne) should meet with so judicious an Approbation the more I am concerned to blesse that Providence which conducted this affaire, and to pay my gratitude to that Courtesy which hath been so instrumentall to my Encouragement. It was (I confesse) a while my admiration, that so peircing an eye should over-looke so many and apparent defects; till I remembered it could be occasioned by no particular Respecte to an unknown Person, but by an Approbation off the Designe which I am now induced to hope appears so sincerely good, that it may helpe to excuse those failings which have happened in the Prosecution. That which I aimed at in this Essay I can avow to be the Glory off God and the good of this Church, by representing our Excellent Liturgye so truly lovely as to diverte and quicken the Devotion off its Friends to remove the prejudices and silence the

<sup>1</sup> MSS. Tanner, 44, fol. 266. This letter seems to be written to Sancroft.

<sup>2</sup> Sancroft had been R. of Houghton-le-Spring, and during 1664 was Dean of York, and made Dean of St. Paul's 1664. He became D.D. in 1662. It is possible then that this letter was written to him.

Calumnyes of its undeserved Adversaryes, and if possible to dispell that ignorance, perversnesse and negligence that have hindered our unanimous & Religious Attendance upon the Dayly sacrifice : which Ende if I could in any considerable measure attaine to, I should account it my greatest faelicity, and a sufficient reward to be instrumentall to so good a worke, but alas! *Quis sufficit!* I am conscious of my own inability for so great an undertaking, and have shewed my good will rather then my sufficiency, and therefore (as I exceedingly need so) Good S<sup>r</sup>. I humbly begge your Favour to incourage; your Advice to directe and your Prayers to asist me in this accomplishment and if it please God to prosper this Attempte that it succeed according to my purposes and desires; I know your generous Pyety will esteeme the successe an Abundant recompence of all your trouble : I shall adde no more but to wish I could be so happy to be as well acquainted with your Person, as I am with your virtues, and to assure you the greater Freedome you please to take in Altering and Amending these Papers the more you will oblige.

7. T.C. TO MR. CARVILLE

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1673

SIR<sup>1</sup>

I am glad of any opportunity to assure you of the continuance of my Respects for you, and that I may engage you to the intercourse you proposed, I am content to give you my sentiments in that difficult Question about the Lords Day :

§ : 1 : Whosoever condemns it as blasphemous, to deny the Christian Sabbath to be of Divine Institution, doe shew they have as little

<sup>1</sup> A passage in the *Memoirs*, p. 68, says the person to whom this was addressed was the Rev. . . . Carville, and that the letter was an answer to some queries by him. Henry Carville, Sizar of Sidney Sussex College in 1662, was ordained priest at York in 1668, and was Vicar of Hedon 1673-8. He was the son of Henry Carville, Rector of Catton, Yorks.

Learning as Modesty, because it is not only the opinion of Dr<sup>r</sup> Ham-mond<sup>1</sup> and Dr Taylor<sup>:2</sup> but also is asserted by many of the most Eminent foreign Divines as well Protestant as Papist and some of the Reformed Doctors have writ in defense of this Principle against the English Presbyters, and that tenet is confirmed with many probable reasons, and a great semblance of Antiquity: Wherefore it was not so monstrous a thing, as some would make it, that the late blessed King Charles<sup>3</sup> should tolerate sports upon the Lords day after Service, since the famous Constantines Edict is still extant in the Code l: 3: dit: 12: *de feriis*: §: 3: allowing even Country labours on that day: : omnes judices urbaneq; plebes et cunctarum artium officia venerabili Die Solis quiescant ruri tamen positi agrorum cultura libere licenterque inserbiant &c. An: Christi: 321: And Geneva<sup>4</sup> as well as Rome allows recreations of this kind, yea and most of their Fairs in Holland begin upon the Sunday: I could say much more upon this head if I were discoursing to one who imposed the Christian Sabbath with a Jewish necessity, but this being your own sense I need not confirme you in your own opinion.

§: 2: But whatsoever is said before I must confess I thinke we must not affirme that the Lords day is barely of Ecclesiastical Institution, for these Reasons I Because the Law and light of Nature teacheth that we must set apart some solemn time for the publick worship of that God in whom we believe and therefore all Nations of the world had sometimes seperated to the honor of their Deities.

yea and anon they had some dark notion of

(a) Clemens Alex: Strom: the seventh day (a) perhaps by tradition from  
50: unde Homero the first Patriarchs who as Mr Mede<sup>5</sup> beleeves  
dicitur

<sup>1</sup> Henry Hammond, 1605-1660. Magdalen College, Oxford. Fellow 1625, M.A. 1625, D.D. 1620. Vicar of Penshurst 1633. Archdeacon of Chichester 1645. Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, and Public Orator 1645. Chaplain to Charles I 1647.

<sup>2</sup> Jeremy Taylor, 1613-67. Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Fellow 1633, M.A. 1634. Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, 1635. Chaplain to Archbishop Laud and to Charles I. Rector of Uppingham 1638. Bishop of Down and Connor 1661. Author of many theological works.

<sup>3</sup> James I issued a Declaration, commonly called the *Book of Sports*, in 1618, permitting lawful recreations on Sunday after divine service. Charles I reissued this in 1622 and ordered it to be read in all churches.

<sup>4</sup> For Calvin's teaching about Sunday see *Christiana Religio Institutio*, 1536, Lib. II, c. VIII, §34.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Mead or Mede (1586-1638). Christ's College, Cambridge. M.A. 1610. Fellow 1613. Greek lecturer 1619. A Biblical scholar of vast erudition. His chief work, *Clavis Apocalyptic*, was published in 1627.

(b) Mede diatribe in Ezek: 20: v: 20:

one day in seven, perhaps the same which we Christians now observe : II<sup>ly</sup> Because if the Sabbath be meerly of Ecclesiastical Institution

(c) Tertul: de Idolatr:

(d) August: Question: in Exod: C: 2: Quest: 172:

Inter omnia illa decem precepta solum ibi quod de Sabbato positum est, figurate observandum precipitur Aug: Januar: ep: 119.

(b) kept that Sabbath which God chose for Adam in Paradise : and that he proves was not the same with the Jews Sabbath : but was ceremoniall. I knew Tertullian (c) and St, Augustine especially (d) are bold to say it is so : but it is strange how one ceremoniall ordinance should be placed in the very midst of that which we call the Morall Law, nor can I tell why we should read it at the Altar and answere to it with Domine miserere, as we do to the rest, if it were abrogated unto us Christians.

III<sup>ly</sup> Because the Apostles did observe the Christian Sabbath before any Ecclesiastical constitutions were made about it and we

(e) Ignat: epist: ad Magnes: p. 148: ed Voss

(f) Clement: Const: lib: 2. c: 63:

shall finde in the very first Ages the Christians are exhorted to keep it in an Holy manner (e) and Justin Martyr Apol: 2: affirmeth they did so observe it (f) before any Authentic Constitution was extant about it. IV<sup>ly</sup> : because

all the Cannons Ecclesiastical and also all the Civill Sanctions which are produced concerning the keeping of the Lord's Day, doe all suppose it as a thing already practised and they doe direct some particulars about it: but doe not establish the thing itself.

§ :3: If I may be admitted therefore to give my sense, I conceive the Rigidness of some for the Divine Institution of their Christiane—Judicall—Sabbath hath provoked some learned persons to bend the stick too much the other way, that they might the better expose the Novelty aforesaid: But it is very probable the truth may lye in the middle and we shall understand by what Authority we now observe the Lords day by these Measures I Upon the account of the Law of Nature we must have some solemne time to worship God in publickly: II By the Authority of the IV Commandement this time must be one day in Seven, because the Christians must not give God less honor than the Jews did : III but because the last day

of the week was by God appropriated to the Jewish oeconomy and referred to their deliverance from *Ægypt*, when the Mosaic rites lost their obliging power (viz) at the Saviour's Resurrection this particular day was necessary no longer unless some new sanction had re-established it: IV: yet we read of no Law either of Christ or the Apostles in writing to fixe any one day, only we finde the apostles and first Christians always assembling on the first day of the week and ordering collections upon it, because on this first day of the weeke Christ arose, and usually appeared to them and at length poured out his Spirit upon them: so that the Fathers ordinarily say

(g) *Dies qui Christi resurrectione sacratus est*  
*Aug: de civi: Dei:*  
*Lib: 23: c. ult: Quem*  
*nobis salvatoris nostri*  
*resurrectio consecrabit:*  
*Leo: ep: 93.*

the Sunday was consecrated to us by Christ's Resurrection (g) and doubtless for the first Century or two this day was kept by imitation of the Apostles without any Canon of the Church or rule to enjoyne it, unless we may suppose Christ did (?) give to his disciples any such charge: V: Afterwards indeed the Church began to exercise her Authority about it, not to consecrate the day, but to amend some disorders committed about it. As the Councell of Laodicea (a) forbids the keeping of the Saturday with it and appoints Christians to rest upon it (not si . . . displacet as D<sup>r</sup> Taylor corruptly cites this Canon Ductor Dubitant: <sup>2</sup> l: 2: c 2 p: 361: but) if it were possible.

(a)<sup>1</sup> *si quis in Civitate*  
*positus per tres Dominicas Ecclesiam non ac-*  
*cesserit, tanto tempore*  
*abstineat ut correptus*  
*esse videatur. Concill:*  
*Ellib: can: 21.*

(c) *Dominicum itaq, diem*  
*semp. honorabilem de-*  
*cernimus ita, veneran-*  
*dum ut a cunctis execu-*  
*tionibus excusetur &c*  
*. . . nec tamen hujus*  
*religiosi diei otia relax-*  
*antes obscoenis quem-*  
*quam patimur volup-*

And the Councell of Elliberis<sup>3</sup> condemned those who came not then to Church (b) And both the Canons (d) and the Imperiall sanctions forbid all sports as well as labours, and Law suites to be had or used upon it (c) yea

<sup>1</sup> The transcriber has left the space for this note blank. Perhaps Comber did too. The Council of Laodicea (in Phrygia) was held in the fourth century. The date at which it assembled is disputed, varying from 314 to 372. The 29th Canon forbade Christians to observe the Jewish Sabbath.

<sup>2</sup> Jeremy Taylor's *Ductor Dubitantum* was published in two folio volumes in 1660. It was probably his greatest work and was reprinted in 1671, 1676, and 1696.

<sup>3</sup> The Council of Elliberis, Ilberus or Elvira, held about the year A.D. 300 at Elvira, on the site of the later Granada.

titibus detineri: Nihil eodem die sibi vindicet scena theatralis, aut circense certamen &c: Constat: Leonis et Anthym: Imp: An: 469: Cod 63; Tit: 12; de feriis §§ ult. idem Leo: Imp: revo- catedictum Constantini<sup>1</sup> Im. de rusticis laboris Quos omnino prohibet. Novall 54.

and Rabanus Maurus<sup>2</sup> who lived above 800 years ago tells us that Sylvester<sup>3</sup> the first Bishop of Rome ordered the Rest of the Sabbath should be transferred to the Sunday, that the people being free from all wordly employments might be at better leisure to praise God. Raban: Maur: de instit: cler: 1: 2: c: 46: By which it doth appeare that though no Authority of the Church can change this day, yet that both Civill and Ecclesiastical Laws

have directed in what Manner it might be observed, and so the seventh day required by God in the fourth Commandement is fixed to the Sunday by Apostolicall and primitive practise because of Christ's Resurrection and the manner how to observe it is taught by Canons and Laws, which being in the pursuance of the Divine intention are to be obeyed for Conscience sake: VI<sup>4</sup> but we must take heed we doe not give the same honor to all the Festivals of the Church for none of them (except Easter) do pretend to be established by Apostolicall practice or Constitutions, and some of them are of much later date, not but that there is an honor due to them also and doubtless the Church hath good warrant to appoint them in remembrance of the grace which God gave to his Saints, and they deserve censure from God and man who will not observe their Governors orders, nor embrace so fit opportunities to glorify the Lord: yet the most of the Festivalls doe not so highly oblige us as the Lord's day doth.

(e)<sup>5</sup> Ethnicis semel annuus quisq, dies festus est tibi Octobris quisq dies: Tertull: *de Idol* c: 4:

If you say the Church reckons Sundays among the Festivals, I answer so doth Tertullian (e) and others of the Antients, yet the Church nowhere saith they are of equal honor, wherefore we may not place them in the same order,

<sup>1</sup> The Edict of Constantine, *Sicut indignissimum*, 3rd July, A.D. 321, provided for rest on the venerable day of the sun, ordered a cessation of public works and the closing of the law courts on that day. He thus put the Lord's Day of the Christians on the same level as pagan days of observance. Leo I, Flavius, Eastern Emperor 457-474. He appointed Anthemius Emperor of the West. The passage referred to in (e) is to be found in Krüger, *Codex*, p. 128.

<sup>2</sup> Rabanus Maurus (A.D. 776-856). Pupil of Alcuin. Founded at Fulda the first public convent school in Germany. Became Archbishop of Mainz 847. Wrote commentaries on the Scriptures, as well as other works.

<sup>3</sup> Sylvester I became Pope in A.D. 314 and died A.D. 335.

<sup>4</sup> *De Idolatria*, Vienna edn. 1880. §14 reads, *Ethnicis semel annuus dies quisque festum est tibi octavo quoque die.*

for I assure you the Lords day hath some particulars wherein it doth excell them.

§ :4: Now as to the power of the King or the Church how farr they may tolerate recreation on the Lord's day, we are not to dispute, but I am sure if any Authority on earth should forbid to worship God on it, we must not obey but suffer, yea if sports were allowed

(f) *Possum dicere quod permittitur bonum non est Tertul ad ux:1: 1: Aliud est indulgere aliud jubere*

(g) *1. Cor: 6: 12 Sunt aliquae quae fieri non oportet etiamsi licet: Ammian: Marcellinus<sup>1</sup> Non omne quod potest debet et fieri. Cyprian de disciplin et hab: Virg:*

(as now they are not) yet doubtless they would do better, who refused to make use of that liberty, and they who spend the Lord's day most holily are the best men (f) May I judge that if this doctrine were true, yet it is not expedient (g) for us (Ministers especially) to urge it: to which purpose I will conclude when I have desired you seriously to weigh these particulars.

I That if we shall lay all the stress of keeping the Lords day upon the Authority of the

Church: it will make the people in this loose age exceedingly to despise it, for they have learned in the late times to trample upon the Constitutions of their Spirituall Fathers, and though it might be enough to make you or me keep it devoutly; if we beleeved the Church enjoyed it, yet it will make the Populace have little Reverence for it. II<sup>ly</sup> the party which dissents from the Church of England, are much scandalized (as they say) at the looseness of the Principles and practises herein, however they have a great advantadge to render it contemptible to the people thereby, and to present us as men little caring for Gods service: III<sup>ly</sup> The Church appoints not only prayers but catechising in the afternoon, which doubtless is to be understood, of making the youth know the meaning of the fundamentalls of Religion, which duty if it were as carefully attended as the necessity thereof requires, there would be litle time left for recreations: IV<sup>ly</sup> Reason and experience doe evince that if the afternoon or part of it be spent in sports we loose all the benefit of whatever was heard before, and if we will confess the truth, pastimes doe more scatter the thoughts and blott out the memory, of all good things, then

<sup>1</sup> The Durham copyist wrote *Auernian Marcossinus*. The passage is in *Ammianus Marcellinus*, *Rerum Gestarum*, Bk. viii, c. viii, §8. Gardthausen reads *aliqua*. The other reference is probably 1 Cor. x. 22. *Omnia mihi licent, set non omnia expedient* (Vulgate).

labour doth, so that they that would profit by going to Church must spend the rest of the day seriously: V<sup>ly</sup> These sports and pastimes are an apparent inlet to debauchery and an evill life, as the manners of those that use them ratify, and therefore it being the design of our calling to make men live righteously soberly and Godly, we must not plead for them. Lastly the latter part of the day in lesser festivalls was designed by those who instituted them among other things for servants and youth to enjoy some innocent freedoms, but the Sabbath is derived so high that no such designe at all could be in the institution of it. And therefore there is not the same reason in both. To conclude I finde the whole Age too prone to neglect Divine things and what is for their soules good, and therefore we of the clergy had need beware we doe not by either practice or principles indulge the loose humor of the times, lest we hinder true Piety, bring a scandall upon the Church and become partakers of other men's sins: We may assert the Christian liberty against all that urge a Jewish necessity, and we need not preach an Absolute Divine institution (which will hardly be proved) but we must show it is the duty of all to spend the day to the Lord, which was certainly the designe of its first institution, and will be of most advantage towards our Eternall Salvation, and one day in Seven is litle enough to looke after Eternity: I advise you to read the Homily of time and place<sup>1</sup> and with my best respects subscribe myself

Your really affectionate Friend and old acquaintance  
Tho: Comber.

As the law of God forbids stealing, and a man's Law tells us what is stealing so that he which committs felony by the King's Law, sinneth against the 8 Commandement and Law of God: so the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandement showing us the time in generall wherein we must worship God, and the practice of the Apostles and the Church fixing this time to the Sunday: He that doth not keep holy the Lords day, doth not only sin against the Church but breaks the Law of God even the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandement, which is to be expounded by the practice of the Church.

<sup>1</sup> *The Second Book of Homilies*, No. 8: "Of the time and place of prayer."

## 8. THE REV. JOHN GARTHWAITE TO T.C.

May 28. 1674.

GOOD M<sup>Y</sup> COMBER.

Yesterday, and not before, Dr Field and I had notice by a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Davison that he could not come (as he had promised) to preach the next Ordination sermon on Trinity Sunday at Bishopthorp, because he is to goe up to London on Whitsun Monday about his Law business. So that I am forced now upon a short warning to sollicite you, that you would be pleased to preach the next Ordination sermon, and both my brother Dr Field,<sup>1</sup> and myselfe shall take it for a great kindnes. I know your abilities are such, as you need not have so much warning as others. Thus hoping you will not deny but fulfill this request, I take leave and subscribe myselfe

Sir

Your very loving Brother  
and humble Servant  
John Garthwait<sup>2</sup>

Bishopthorp  
May 26. 1674.

SIR,

This letter was intended you two or three daies since as you may perceive by the Date above, but not knowing how to get it to you by a safe hand, I have this time sent my own man over to you, desiring you would returne mee a speedy answer as soone as you can, and you shall much oblige

Your Brother and Servant  
J.G.

## 9. T.C. TO LORD FAUCONBERG

East Newton. Octob: 26: 1674

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR.

As soon as I heard of my Lord Freschvilles journey to London the place of your Honour's Residence I was in hopes so fortunate a

<sup>1</sup> Robert Field, Trinity College, Oxford. B.A. 1656, M.A. 1659, D.D. 1673. Preb. and Subdean of York 1670. Rector of Barton-in-Fabis, Notts, 1671. Canon of Southwell 1676. Archdeacon of Cleveland 1675. Died 1680.

<sup>2</sup> John Garthwaite, Christ's College, Cambridge. B.A. 1607-8, M.A. 1611. Master at St. Peter's School, York, 1623. Rector of Rothbury 1661, Catwick-in-Holderness 1665. Preb. of Southwell 1665-78. Preb. of York 1666-78 and Chaplain to the Archbishop. Died 1678.

Conjunction might be an Omen of the good success of my Concerne,<sup>1</sup> wherefore I make bold to put your Lordship in Mind of the Request which I made at Newburgh,<sup>2</sup> and beseech you that will please to take this faire Opportunity to engage Sir Hugh Ch: in whom I know your Lordship to have a very great Interest. I have writ also to my Lord Freshville (whose lodgings are at Colonel Culpeppers near my Lord Arundells<sup>3</sup> house in Lincolnes-Inn-fields) to request him to wait upon your Lordship about this affair. Your Honour hath given me so many testimonialls of Respect and a most obliging kindnesse that it might look like forgetfulness or Distrust if I should use any arguments to presse your Lordship to what you were pleased so generously to take upon you, wherefore I shall only say that if the successe answers your Honours care I shall thereby be secured in your Honours neighbourhood for my little ever in this uncertaine world, and so have the better opportunity to testify my Gratitude for your Lordship having done me so great a kindnesse, if otherwise I have already resolved to be content with that denyall as it is the Providence of God, and also thankfull to my noble freinds, whose favour is so great and deserves as much esteem for Candidly endeavouring as for prosperously obtaining what we Request of them.

My Lord I am commanded to render the service of my good Mother to your selfe and to my Lady and the Lady Russell<sup>4</sup> to which and to all the particulars I am obliged to adde my own, and if it be not too much presumption I would give your Honour the trouble of presenting my service to my worthy and most honoured friend D<sup>r</sup> Tillotson.<sup>5</sup> I am not known to Sir Hugh, but as I beleeve your Lordship will represent me with advantage so if ever I have the good fortune to be obliged to and acquainted with him I will endeavour to verify the Character which is put upon me, and to live so that

<sup>1</sup> The living of Thornton which he hoped to get from Sir Hugh Cholmley.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Freshville lived at Newburgh.

<sup>3</sup> Henry 3rd Baron Arundel of Wardour.

<sup>4</sup> Mary, third daughter of Oliver Cromwell, married in November 1657 Thomas Bellasvse, second Lord Fauconberg. His Yorkshire home was at Newburgh in the North Riding. Mary Cromwell's sister, Frances, married (1) 1657 Robert Rich, who died 1658, (2) Sir John Russell. Her daughter Elizabeth married Sir Thomas Franklin. Lady Russell and her daughter spent much time at Sutton Court, Chiswick, the London home of the Fauconbergs.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. John Tillotson, at this time Dean of Canterbury.

perhaps your Honour may oblige the Honourable Person by your recommendation, and that he shall be satisfied in his Choice : I must not lengthen a tedious Addresse by longer Apologies, wherefore I am in all Sincerity and

with great Respect  
My Lord

Your Honours most obliged and most Faithfull servant  
Tho : Comber.

TO. LORD FAUCONBERG TO T.C. .

Oct. last. 74.

M<sup>®</sup> CUMBER.

before I received your Letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> I had discours'd the matter with Sir Hugh Cholmeley at large, but forgott sooner to acquaint you with his answer. He told me that he was not ingaged, and promised me faithfully that he would not be so, to any body, haveing taken a resolution to reserve a liberty for himself in that matter untill the liveing should fall, but that he should be as willing to gratify you in it, as any man he had yet heard of, and thereupon took an occation to complement me, which was acknowledged to him with many thanks.

I am of oppinion if my Lord Fresheville second this address of mine, it may assure the liveing pretty well to you which is very heartly wished by

Your affectionate Friend  
to serve you  
Fauconberg

Octob<sup>r</sup> the last

1674

let me know if this comes  
to your hand's because I am  
uncertaine of the address.

## II. T.C. TO LORD FAUCONBERG

York : November 11

My Lord

1674.

I am extremely obliged to returne your noble favour with my most humble and hearty thanks and am very sensible that your Lordship's endeavours have been as Candid as your interests with Sir Hugh is great so that as the whole burden of this addresse hath been rest upon your Honours Management the whole acknowledgements ought to be made to you, I have as yet neither seen nor heard from my Lord Freschville now returned to Stavely and shortly expected at York, when he remos hither I shall acquaint him how far *your* Honour hath . . . and if it be judged *by him* or your Lordship to be requisite to make further applications : I shall promote it : but I must confesse being a stranger to Sir Hugh I cannot but isteeme highly of so faire an answer at first and if your Honour Advise will make bold to expresse my gratitude to him, and shall hope however when a little more time hath given me the happiness of being known to Sir Hugh with the continuance of your Lordship's Recommendations he may please to grant some firmer hopes, which I should never desire unlesse that I am so much a stranger to the World that I can never hear of the neerest Vacancies, till I am informed they are disposed, so that if this should Fall, another *may easily* be before me, unlesse some particular Memento *may* retaine me in Mind.

But howsoever your Honour advise herein I am resolved to steer my Course and will presume to make your Lordship my Councillor as well as my Person in this affair : All I have to adde is the tender of my Duty and service to your Honour and my good Lady and with my Mother most humble thanks for this excellent kindnesse to me I shall subscribe myself

My Lord

Your Honours ever obliged servant

Tho: Comber

If your Lordship honour me with any further advise in this affair or please to recommend me any service the Direction which fairly conveys to me is For . . . at East Newton to be left at M<sup>r</sup> Waynds neer the Minster

in York.

## 12. LORD FRESCHEVILLE TO T.C.

York the  
17<sup>d</sup> Nov.

SIR

I am very glad to heare that my Lord Falconbridge hath put the . . . into so fair a way and you need not doubt but I will contribute all that lies in my power to the obtaining that which is so convenient for you and which you so well deserve. When I presented my Lady Horne<sup>1</sup> your booke I desired her Ladyship to take notice of the Author's name, for I had a confidentiall suit to make to Sir Hugh in his behalfe which she has promised and I suppose it has contributed much to that favourable answer which he gave Lord Falconbridge. But Sir I have not beene at London since I saw you nor any neerer to it then Newmarkett and there is an accident fallen out wherein Sir Hugh and I are competitors, and I know not how proper it may be for me to move anything for the present: but if there was no such thinge I must not expect any other answer then what is already given. I present my neece Thornton my faithfull respects and to all hers, but in regard that I went not to London and for some other reasons which you shall know I have not delivered her letter to my Lord Treasurer.<sup>2</sup> I have not brought my wife to Yorke for we are not able to remove a Family and the lumber which attends it, the wayes are so foule. I hope I shall see you at York before I leave it which will be about a weeke hence. I am

yours most faithfully

J. Frescheville

17<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1674

## 13. LORD FRESCHVILLE TO T.C.

London the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

SIR

I have received yours of the 2<sup>d</sup>, but none from M<sup>r</sup> Mompesson<sup>3</sup> which I hope may come by the next post because on the 10<sup>d</sup> of this

<sup>1</sup> Lady Horne. Possibly one of the Hornes of Cumberworth (now the Hornes of Shelley Hall). If so, "lady" is a courtesy title. The name does not occur amongst the peers and baronets. There was a Sir George Horner of Mills Somerset and Yorke Horner was Lord Mayor of York in 1676. His wife would be called "Lady."

<sup>2</sup> Danby.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Mompesson. It would seem that a suggestion was made that Comber should have the reversion of Eakring when Mompesson died or retired from it.

month I am to attend hir maiesty to Newmarkett and there to stay till the Eve of Palme Sunday, when it is convenient I will not faile to move My Lord Arch Bishop, but I feare his Grace will not heare of a Reversion and on the other side there is a danger of a pre-ingagement. I would have taken my fortune and have mentioned the thinge to him this day, but the winde is so high I could scarce have gott a boate to crosse the river and yet hir Maiesty and the Duke are gone down to Blackwall. The newse you have heard I beleeve is true, but less than a convertion will not reconcile the people to his Highnesse,<sup>1</sup> with my most affectionate respects to my deare neece and all hers

I am ever yours most faithfully  
J. Frescheville

14. JOIN WORSLEY TO T.C.

SIR

Not yet havinge opportunitye to waite on you at Newton being hindred by other businesse at present, I have examined your letter, wherein I finde these things insisted on which I have drawn into these particulars, the better to consider them and answer them apart.

1. first you prove yours a true church by way of paralel from Scripture thus, there you say I may find a company of Christians beleeving in God and in Jesus Christ and soe are and doe you. How they had some for ordering and instructing the people consecrated by laying on of hands and soe have you, how some of them were higher as Apostles and Bishops some lower as Pastors and Deacons. So have you; How they mett together in one place and especially on the lords day and so doe you. they the best patterns in Scripture beinge your example, none ought, you say to seperate from you, to which I answer First these are not infallible proofes of a true instituted Church of Christ in its beeing or Discipline from which a person ought not to separate: and thus I prove it, all these may be found in any Idolatrous Anty Christian church from which wee

<sup>1</sup> It became known in 1672 that James, Duke of York, had joined the Church of Rome. There were various suggestions made in order to ease the situation. One was that he should conform outwardly to the Church of England, but James was too honest for that. The feeling against the Duke increased and culminated in the Exclusion Bill of 1679.

are commanded to seperate : as the Church of Rome in some respects is a company of Christians beleeving in God and Jesus Christ, havige in her ordering and instructinge the people, some consecrated by laying on of hands, consisting also of Higher and lower offices, and worshiping together on the lords day : and yet we are commanded to leave her Reve the 18 and 4 2 Cor the 6 as from a server of Beliall and Idolls as light and darkness not agreeinge together.

2. You labour to prove it Authentick in its worship, from Scripture as prayinge preaching readinge the Scriptures singinge of psalms and Hymns, Baptisme and the Holy Communion being apoynted ordinances froni God in the Scriptures, and those beinge substantiall and unalterable parts of your worship on the lords day; I may with a true faith worship in these ordinances as grounded on Scriptures : I say its true I may with true faith worship in these ordinances; but not in an Idolatrous Manner or with an Idolatrous church, for the Church of Rome worships in all these ordinances, and these ordinances are substantiall with them, and yet proved and shall be proved hereafter, an Idolatrous Church and soe unlawfull for a child of God to worship with her in these ordinances.

3. thirdly from these 2 positions you conclude that a church beinge thus established in its Essentiall parts of beinge, and its substantiall parts of worship, a person ought not nay cannot finde any reason in or warrant from Scripture to seperate from it : But of what grounds your conclusion is yourselfe may see, First I doe confesse and beleeve that from a church rightly gather'd and truely established walking in Christian Communion and obedience of the Gospell of Jesus Christ none ought to seperate tho some faults and corruptions be found in her as grounded on these Scriptures Rev the 2 and 3 : Acts the 15 and 1 and 2 and 1 Cor 1 and 10 and 2 phil and 1 and 6 and the 3 and 15, 16, heb the 10 and 25, jude the 19 . . . the 4 and 13, 2 Chron 15, 9, 17 and 30 and 18 and 19 verses and 2 Chron the 13 and 12 with others yet that these scriptures doe not prove seperation unlawfull from Idolls, Idolatrous worship or an Idolatrous church. I hope you will not say, nor sure deny, as you seem to doe that these Scriptures vz 2 Cor 6 and 17 verse the 18 and 4 with others prove not seperation lawfull from such a church, you perhaps will say : that you doe not say soe that they prove not a seperation unlawfull from Anti-christian and an Idolatrous church : but from a church

beleeving in the true God and in Jesus Christ; if you say from a church so beleeving in the true God and in Jesus Christ, as the Scriptures manifest them to bee and requires of this church, rightly accordinge to Scripture gather'd soe accordinglye established, and walking together in holy communion and gospell order then they doe not, but if not soe though they doe beleeve in the true God and in Jesus Christ and have those parts of beeing which is in your first position, and those substantiall parts of worship in your second, yet they doe prove a seperation and thus I prove it Righteousnes hath no fellowship with unrighteousnes v 2 Cor 6 and 14 they are a confusion one to another therefore cannot agree together. Christ hath no concord with beliall must seperate vers the 15 no agreement with the church of God and Idolls or an Idolatrous church vers the 16 and therefore commanded to seperate vers the 17. A church may beleeve in the true God and in Jesus Christ as I have showed and yet be an Anti Christian church and a server of Beliall, now then doe not these Scriptures prove a seperation lawfull from such a church, may not this call and command be rightly applyed to a member of Christ, come out from amongst them and be ye seperate, will you deny that the church of Rome is in these points of being and worship as yours, yet I hope you will not grant wee may lawfully become members and worshipers with her; you see then upon what ground you conclude.

4. Fourthly you say in your worship is no sin. May not the papists use the same argument, to say nothing that thier is sin in our best performances, as the prophet, all our righteousnes is as filthy raggs and a mentruous cloath what distractions and wandrings are in our prayers misapprehentions in our hearing and readinge a want of fit preparation in our hearts in all our worship, in our singinge not that joyfullnes and preparednes of spirit and indeed in all our worship a want of that spirituality which is required of us. And further if their be no sin in it it must be sanctify'd with the mediation of Jesus Christ; but whether our Saviour be the mediator of any worship but his own shall be shown hereafter, but further if it not a sin to add or diminish from or to what God commands us Deu. 12. 32, is their nothinge of addition or diminution to the will of God in your worship did not God tell Moses Deut 18 and 18, 19 he would raise them up a prophet that should tell all his commands and that

he would require the non-performance of them at the hands of them that disobeyed, did not this prophet leave a charge to his Apostles that all nations should be taught to observe all things whatever he commandeth Matt 28 and 20 does your worship teach us to observe nothinge but what hee taught us: let us awhile compare them together where doth he teach us that their must of necessity bee for the building up and ordering of his Church, Archbishops, primates, Lord Bishoppes, Metropolitans, Suffragans, Deanes, Prebendarys, Canons, peticannons, Archdeacons, Chancellors, Commissaryes, priests, vicars, Curates, Church-wardens and parish clarks, doctors, proctors, and other officers I name not, where has he taught some of those inferior officers to their callings, offices and authority (from the other where did Christ appoint his disciples or his disciples appoint others to serve God by reading over the Bishops decrees and the service Booke where did hee appoint us to observe that forme of Buriall, that forme of Churching of Women, that forme of Visitting the Sick and giving him the Sacrament, where to preach but so many times a yeaer, where did hee teach any whom he guifted thereto, not to preach without license, written and sealed under the hands of foresaid Higher Officers, or such to instruct whom he doth not guift for it, or where are we taught for distinction and decency to weare the square capp, the surplice or where does he bid us to read the common-prayers, to observe the suffrages collects, Litany and the rest, that the Romish fashion of psalms, chapters, epistles, gospells, virsicles, respondes, te deum, benedictus, nunc dimitis, we dayly read morning and evening all the year in your priestly vesture of surplice, coape singing some and reading some: where did hee command Cathedrall churches and in them the organs quirrister singing men and boys.

Where doth he teach us to observe dayes and times as Christmas, Lent, ember dayes, Saints dayes, and to marry with the signe of the ringe, where to baptize in the hallowed font with Godfathers and Godmothers with innumerable more such things I could name would it not be tedious, surely I cannot find where hee commands us these things, and yet tooke that care in his Testament to leave all things necessary for us to observe of Timo 6: 13. 14. 15. 16 wherewith the man of God be absolute and throughly furnished to every good work: may I not justly say this is a strange worship, and

an addition in some respect to what (he) bids us observe, be Judge your selfe herein, whether here be noe sin : but if you please to read learned Clingworth<sup>1</sup> his Arrow against Idolatry, there he plainly demonstrates to you from Scripture that it is a palpable and evident breach of the 2 commandment, ought not these things to be showed to be according to the Testament of Christ, otherwise the retayning of them is as much as in us lies to make Christ the mediator of another worship and ministrition, and consequently of another testament then his owne : is this Doctrine thus preached and thus maintayned the doctrine of Jesus Christ or his Apostles (and if not, tho' an Angell from heaven preach it let him be accursed Gala.

But againe you say a person not consentinge to it may be amongst them and yet be guiltles, you are speaking here of worship and worshiping, soe that you seem to mean a person may worship with and amongst them and yet be guiltles, a strange doctrine doth not God expect an unanimous Consent in his worship; does not your Church look for an unanimous Consent from her hearers, eyther a person must consent or no, if he consent to what is against conscience he sins, eyther by constraint or willingly, and by constraint you seek to make him consent, if he doe not consent hee is a witness against it and so contend against it, as in Jude, to contend for that faith which was once delivered to the saints, or els he sins in dealing hypocritically with God and man, soe that a true Christian cannot be seen sacrificing in the Idoll temple but he gives occasion of offence to his Brother and soe sins.

5. You say your customs, gestures, methods, habitts and formes are not imposed as matters of faith, only as matters of decency and are things not imposed as parts of your worship, yea, as such necessary parts that you are sworne not to worship without them, I cannot finde in all my Bible where Christ apoynted them to his disciples, or his disciples to them whom they taught and then they are eyther Human Institutions, and soe breake the 2 command, or if they be from God, Christ was not so faithfull over his own house as was Moses which is contrary to hebrews the 3 seeing he left them upon record and imposed them upon us as they are &c.

<sup>1</sup> *Clingworth* is a mistake in transcription. Henry Ainsworth, a Brownist teacher in Amsterdam, who died 1662-3, wrote *Arrows against Idolatry*, and it was reprinted in 1689.

But to your five queries which you say I must answer, or if I cannot you say it is a sin in mee to abstain from your worship : First I must show some plaine and positive command in Scripture which injoyns us to seperate from a church because some things are found unwarrantable therein : have I not **A** answered this in my foregoing discourse that we are commanded positively to separate, **B** 1 Cor and . . . because their is found unwarrantable things therin, against Christ church ought to be **C** unrebukeable a company of faithfull Beleevers without spott and blamles : But with admitting and retayning open prophane scandalous persons are defiled as in Cor. **D** a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump and we are commanded to withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly and in **E** Hag. 2. 12. 13. 14. Cor 5, 6 and **F** Deut 9. 13. 20. 22 the 8. 2. 3 and **G** heb. [3] 12. 15. this also may serve for another answer that a person may be defiled by anothers sin tho' not consenting to it, and if no remidy otherwise can be had I hope you will not deny but that a person may seperate rather then live in a wilfull and known profanation.

Secondly you say I must prove the Church of England commands as an essentiaall necessary and unalterable part of Gods worship, which is not instituted by him : To which I answer, those things which I have shewed before I cannot finde in my Bible to be Instituted by God as necessary parts of his worship, But I find them instituted as **H** necessary by the church of england so the conclusion follows :

Thirdly you say I must produce some cleare testimony of God's word affirming we must doe nothing about or in the service of God but what is injoyned in scripture, read to wit the **I** Levi 10 and i what it cost them for doing what he commanded them not, also if you please, read **M<sup>r</sup>** Burrows<sup>1</sup> **K** Gospell worship, but againe are not all churches and people bound in religion only to receyve and submit unto that constitution, Ministry, worship and order which our Saviour as lord and king hath appoynted unto his Church and not to any other devised by man whatsoever as Matt 28. 18. 19 and . . . 13. 14. 15. 16 Acts the 1 and 3 and 3, 22, 23 and the 8. 31 and 20. 17. 28. Gal 1. 8. 9 and 3 and 15. 1 Cor 4. 17 and the 12 and 4. 5. 6. 28 and 14, 37, 38 and Colo the 2. 3. 4. 5. 6 and say the Co and 12 John the 3 and 36 heb the 5. 9 and 12. 28. 29. Jude 3 verse 14 and 9. 10. 11.

<sup>1</sup> Jeremy Burroughs, 1599-1646. *Gospel Worship*, 1650.

12 and the 18. 4 and the 22 and 18. 19 and these are my reasons. First because there is but one way of truth and of the true service of God, and that in Christ, who onely is the way, the truth and the life John 14. 6 and the 17: Secondly because all are bound solely and wholy to that faith which was once for all given to the saints, and that soe as if an Angell from heaven should teach otherwise we might not receyve it, but ought to hold him accursed Jude 3: 1 Tim 6. 3. 4. 5. 13. 14. and 2 Tim 1. 13 and 2. 2. Gal 1 and 8. 9; Thirdly because the constitution, ministry, worship and order apoynted by Christ is that onely which hath promise of blessing from the Lord. Mat 28 and 20. Fourthly because the refusall or deniali of such submission makes subject to the wrath and curse of God Luke 19 and 27. Isay 60 and 12 John 3. 36, revel 14. 9. 10. 11. 12 and the 22. 18. 19. Fifthly else princes and people might now doe that against the ministry and ordinances of Christ which they might not in the time of the Law concerning the ministry and ordinances of Moses Contrary to heb. 3. 1. 6 and 12. 28. 29 and Deut 4. 1. 24 and 17. 18. 19. 20. Sixly else we should hould our religion at the pleasure of man and not at the prescription and command of the lord who is King of Kings by whom princes rule and unto whom all are in subjection and yield obedience to him, and that so much the more as wee look for salvation by him, Mat 28. 18. 20 and 15, 9, 1 Kings 12. 17. 33. 2 Chron 13. 8. 12. Deu 4. 2 and 12. 32 with 17, 18, 19. 20 Joshu 1. 8. Joh 3. 36. Heb 5. 9. But as to your 4 you would have me to instance in some church ould or new that hath nothing in their worship but what is plaine set doun in the word of God: suppose I could not, doth this maintain it warrantable because sin hath been from Adam till now is sin therefore warrantable; no more can that be warrantable in Gods worship if he have not appointed it be it never so antient, neyther doe I finde the church of Smyrna reproved like the other churches: As to your last, you would have me name any ceremony required of me as a hearer to joyne in: which is plainly forbid in Gods word and so is sinfull: you command me as a hearer to joyne with you in a worship that I cannot finde in my bible, yet I finde in my Bible all parts of worship necessary to compleat the man of God and therefore must be a humane invented worship, or an addition to Gods worship and so breaks the 2 Command or contradict that text deut 12 and 32. Thus

Sir according to the knowledge that is in mee I endeavour to satisfy you why I cannot joyne with you soe with my true love and service to you I rest

Your Friend and servant  
John Worsley.<sup>1</sup>

March the 18<sup>th</sup> (74)

15. T.C. TO JOHN WORSLEY (Draft)<sup>2</sup>

I<sup>86</sup>] A. you see you have proved nothing at all but your own ignorance.

B. it seems you have no other places but 1 Cor: and Rev: 18: which I prooved cleerly were nothing to the purpose

C. They ought to be so, but they were never so in Christ's time nor his Apostles, yea he tells us they never will be so on Earth.

D. We excommunicate those when they are presented, but pray doth Leven leaven any part of the lump but what is made sour by it.

E: Hag 2: 12: 13: 14 If you be ..... that place might proove somthing

F. Deut: 9. 13 & c Nothing to the purpose, nor 5: 2: 5.

G. Heb: III. 15. None defiled by the root of bitterness but those in whom it grows else he had said all defiled.

H as necessary] Pray where do you find them so instituted? but besides they were to be essentiall and unalterable, which perhaps none of the things you name are

I Levii: x: 1 If we were Jews and had fire from heaven at which we were to kindle sacrifices, this were to our Purpose, but now tis impertinence.

K. If Mr B[urrows] be one of the Authors that abuseth you with

<sup>1</sup> John Worsley is described by Abraham de la Pryme (in 1697) as a clergyman, and as a learned and ingenious clergyman. It is believed that he was an early member of the Royal Society. De la Pryme met him in Lincolnshire. Thomas Worsley of Hovingham, who died 1664 and was father of the Thomas Worsley who was godfather to one of Comber's children, had a second son John, who at the age of fourteen years received £40 per annum under his father's will. This may be the John Worsley of these letters.

<sup>2</sup> The *Memoirs* say that Comber's letter of reply to Worsley is not extant. But this seems to be a draft of it.

Scriptures so wretchedly misapplyed I shall not much esteem his gospel-worship :

Matt: 28: 18: 19. all that he commands us and nothing contrary, nor of Equall Authority, but other things the very Apostles Taught as the office of Deacons &c.

1 Tim. VI: 13: 14: 15: 16. We own Christ King of Kings, but where he made no laws, we obey those he hath set over us. Acts: I: 3: and V: 31 and XX: 17: 28: 1 Cor: IV. 17 and XII: 4: 5: 6 and XIV: 37. 38. Coloss: II: 3: 4: 5: 6: Isai: LX: 12: Heb: V: 8: 9: 10 and XII: 28: 29: Jude v. 12 Revel: XIV: 9: 10: 11: 12: and xviii. 4 and xxii: 18: 15 Nothing to the purpose.

Act III: 22: 23 but how shall we hear him in things he saith nothing of.

Gal I: 3: 9 Orders are not another Gospel nor do they oppose the Gospel in the least.

Chap III. 15. Now [? Nor] do we by these disannull his Covenant at all.

1 Cor: XII: 28. Where is your Miracles, Prophesys and Healings and Toungs &c now these belong not to our times but were then fit.

L. I hope your Reasons are better then your Scriptures.

#### 16. LORD FRESCHVILLE TO T.C.

SIR,

May 1st 1675.

The next day after I received your letter I . . . his Grace as you desired but all was disposed of to his chaplaine and so would have been if it had come the first day after Dr. Neale's death,<sup>1</sup> whereas this was a week after. I hope you have received the account I sent you of your concernment with Sir Hugh whom I have since acquainted with the particulars you imparted to me . . . he vallews it not and for . . . he disclaimes any manner of ingagement I make not question of successe in that particular. With my faithfull service to my dear neice I remaine yours no less

J. Freshville.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. John Neale was appointed Dean of Ripon in May 1674. He died the 14th of April 1675.

17. T.C. TO DR. SANCROFT<sup>1</sup>

Stonegrave Septemb 2: 1675.

S\*

I must needs esteem it amongst my great misfortunes that during my short stay at London I had neither leisure to wait upon you at your Country house nor opportunity to tender my service to you in the City,<sup>2</sup> although I did most industriously ayme at both, and indeed your Excellent favours to me (as yet personally unknown) have made it highly my duty and earnestly my desire to have made my acknowledgments vivā voce, and the good Dr who presents these can witnesse with how great a trouble I resented my unhappy disappointment, yet when I consider that your extraordinary respects towards me and my poor endeavours did begin without any Personall acquaintance, I shall hope they will be continued, till it shall please God to give me the satisfaction of being better known to you. In the mean time that I may expresse my gratitude for your former Civilityes and my desire to preserve my selfe in your Memory I purpose (with your Permission) to present some part of my Discourses upon the Publicke offices to your selfe. For besides your true affection for the Text, you have been pleased to approve and commend the Comment and your judicious approbation hath not only given it great advantage to others, but I assure you been the most considerable encouragement to myself to proceed, for I am so conscious of my own infirmityes, and the disadvantageousnesse of my Circumstances for so great an undertaking, at this distance which I live from Men and books, that my first intention was only to excite some better pen, and that without any Name, that my Meanesse might not abate the esteeme and good successe of that first attempt; but I was informed you appointed my Friend Mr Lane to put my name to the first, and I hope you will please to permit your own (so valedew by all the true Sons of this Church) to give honour to the Second: I shall no longer divert you from any greater Concerns but with the assurance of my Hearty prayers for your happy finishing

<sup>1</sup> MSS. Tanner, 42, fol. 177.

<sup>2</sup> Sancroft was then Dean of St. Paul's. He was busy at this time with the rebuilding of the Cathedral.

the Noble Structure which you have so piously begun, and do so vigorously carry on :

I do subscribe my selfe  
 Reverend Doctor  
 your most obliged & faithful servant  
 Tho : Comber.

There is one M<sup>r</sup> Will Prat<sup>1</sup> my Neighbour and very ingenious friend once your Sizer who desires me to present his duty to you.

18. THOMAS HOLBECK TO T.C.<sup>2</sup>

GOOD SIR

London Sept 25th. 75.

I cannot but be very *apprehensive* of the great favour you have done me in your very obliging letter and your expressions therein : for I profess to you there is nothing in this world, that I highlye prize then an acquaintance with such Good, and Pious, and Worthy persons as yourself : and therefore I should be very injurious to myself, if I used not all the meanes that lye in my power to return my thankfull acknowledgments to you, and as far as possibly I can procure a further endeavour with you : For which, though I can at present do nothing, nay may seeme by this long delay of an answer to your brother to have done contrary; yet if you please to take notice that I was unwilling to come *alone* to you, without the Deanes answer which you soe *passionately* desired and that his occasions would not give him leave to write till this present, I hope you will be well satisfyed that it was neither forgetfulness nor neglect that hath kept me thus long silent : And beleiving that I hope you will not hereafter forbeare to give me your desire and commands for anything wherein I may serve you. As a specimen whereof I should

<sup>1</sup> William Pratt of Durham. Sizar, Emmanuel, Cambridge, 1663. B.A. 1666-7. M.A. 1670. Deacon 1671. Priest 1672. Vicar of Bossall 1673-1701. Died 2nd January 1701-2.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Holbech, or Holbeck. Emmanuel College, Cambridge. B.A. 1625-6. M.A. 1629, B.D. 1636, D.D. 1660. Fellow 1629, Master 1675-80. Vice-Chancellor 1677-8. Vicar of Epping 1641-3. Prebendary of St. Paul's 1660-80. Rector of St. Augustine's, London. 1662-80. Censor of theological works for the Archbishop of Canterbury. Died 1680.

adventure my advise about your dedication to my Lord Treasurer by no means to forbear it, but that I know the Deane hath given you better satisfaction therein And so for your other intimation of . . . with your good undertaking by my prayers for a more faithfull and devout performing of these holy offices by the Ministry of them it is, I thank God hath been allwayes soe perfectly *ad mentem meam*, that if I should neglect any way that lyes in my power to obtayne it I should looke upon myself as out of measure false and insidious. But what think you (Good Sir) after you have concluded your Notes upon the Offices might not *a word* or two in the way of Exhortation both to Ministers and to people better to mind them be conducive to what we desire. But *verba sapienti*. And now Sir Pardon me one word more. I understand you are desiredly purposed to put forth your first piece, the Companion to the Temple in a new Edition and I have seen 10 sheetes proof in writing which I have passed, and find but little altered from the former and what is noe way to be disallowed: I thinke therefore it may be very well to give the printer charge not to deceive the Reader and buyers with a *lying Title* of Great Additions &c whereas I finde there is nothing but some small alterations. Or if you have a mind to make additions: print them by themselves (as you may see it in some editions of D<sup>r</sup> Hammond's Catechism<sup>1</sup> that soe the first edition be not rendered uselesse to all that all ready have it but that whatever may be thought wanting may be had in a sheet or 2 by . . . and to be adjoyned at the . . . pleasure. I have noe more at present, but hearty prayers to God for his Blessing upon you and your most pious profitable studyes, and labors, and all your affayres: and passionate wishes that he may sometimes heare from you, who is

Deare Sir

Yours most respectively and affectionately  
Thomas Holbeck.

For my very Worthily Respected  
friend M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Comber at

Stonegrave in  
Yorkshire

<sup>1</sup> Henry Hammond, 1605-60. D.D. Magdalen College, Oxford. *A Practical Catechism*, 1644.

## 19. LORD FRESCHVILLE TO T.C.

Nov<sup>br</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> (1675)

SIR

I deferred my answer to yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> of October till I could get some acquaintance with the Bishop of Chichester<sup>1</sup> which I have done and have moved him in y<sup>r</sup> behalf. I thinke he is a very worthy Person and his answer is obliging and very reasonable: for he tells me he that never yet preferred any since he came to his Bishopricke, and it is to be supposed there are some who have expectations from him. Howsoever the Bishop sayes that I shall see that he hath a true respect for me, and upon that account I thinke you may at your conveniencye take A journey to Chichester with a letter from me and that will be an apt occasion for you to visite your riche freind and improve your acquaintance with him.<sup>2</sup> Now for the . . . concerning a troopers place. I take it a little ill that you should thinke there is a price set upon that imployment; for when a soldier is poore I sometimes give him leave to sell his place but very rarely: but upon any other account I deserve to be infamously cashiered if ever there be mony in the case. I hope my deere neece Thornton is in good health and my young neeces and your brother Robin. With my faithfull respects to them and yourselfe. I am

your most faithfull freind

I thinke your best expectation will be uppon Sir J Fresheville  
 Hugh Chomlye: M<sup>r</sup> W Wandesford<sup>3</sup> tells me I cannot send you  
 that Baron Bertye<sup>4</sup> is satisfied it was only a Trust any good newes

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ralph Brideoake became Bishop of Chichester 18th April 1675.

<sup>2</sup> Rich friend. Probably John Comber of Donnington is meant. See Introduction, p. xv.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. W. Wandesford must be William Wandesford, baptized at Kirklington in 1605. Married Rebecca Reade. Citizen and woollen draper of London. Made Gentleman Pensioner by Charles II. Died aged 85.

<sup>4</sup> Baron Bertye—Vere Bertie—fourth son of the second Earl of Lindsey. Barrister Middle Temple 1659. Bencher 1673. Secretary of the Treasury and Treasurer of the Ordnance. Baron of the Exchequer 4th June 1675. Justice of Common Pleas 1678-9. Died 1680. It seems not uncommon at this period to seek "Counsel's opinion" from a judge.

## 20. LORD FAUCONBERG TO T.C.

Sir.

The last post brought me the civility of your acknowledgments which I can by noe means admitt of, as a due, since you are intitled, by your owne merritt, to much more then my Lord Treasurer can doe, or I say for you. Be confident upon all occasions, you shall find me readely dispos'd to doe you any good offices, conceivinge the promotion of such persons as your selfe, reall services to the Church. I congratulate the increase of your Family and the recovery of your Lady being with much truth

Your affectionate Friend  
and Servant

London Febr'

Fauconberg.

ye 1<sup>st</sup> 1678.M<sup>r</sup> Wandesford is very carefull of all your concernes.

## 21. THOMAS HOLBECK TO T.C.

WORTHY SIR.

London Febr 3 7<sup>8</sup>

Mr Broome<sup>1</sup> having hitherto communicated to me your most loving remembrances, and this day further imparted according to your appoynmt what you think fitt to add to your preface before the first part of your excellent labors upon the Liturgie: I should show myself both most unworthy of soe good acquaintance and unanswerable toe great favors if I did not endeavour to make as speedy a returne as my healthe will give me leave both of my affectionate acknowledgment of your obliging kindness and true and sincere hearty thanks for your good prayers for my recovery to which I cannot but adjoyne my best approbation of what you intend to add to the conclusion of your preface both as to the Clergy for Reading

<sup>1</sup> Henry Broome the publisher, first at the Star, Little Britain, next at the Gun, Ludgate Street, then at the Gun in St. Paul's Churchyard. His widow Joanna carried on the business after his death in 1681.

and to the Laity for hearing and observing with better devotion the prayers of the Church for which that which you plead is so full and emphaticall, that if but . . . considered as I pray for I hope will very much evayle both for a better esteeme and a better using of those pious offices: The Lord recompense you for and blesse and . . . well do for . . . and I make no question but he doth, since I find that good promise of his . . . thus fayrely made good unto you in these performances. I cannot continue long at my pen and therefore am forced to hasten to subscribe myself

Good Sir

Your most affectionate friend

and servant

Thomas Holbeck.

22. W.R. to T.C.

Poultrie April the 8<sup>th</sup> 1676.

REVEREND SIR.

I take the boldness from that small acquaintance I have had the happiness to Contract with you and the greater with your laborius works (for which I and divers friends of mine) having been partakers shall ever be obliged to pay you Respects was a small acknowledgement to present you with 2 small Comprehensive Histories, which I presume may be acceptable to you, and not being before this come to your hands in this Vollumn, being new printed, they being writ by A Reverend divine one D<sup>r</sup> Richard Perrinchie<sup>1</sup> who was about 3 years since (untill his death) Minister of S<sup>t</sup> Mildred's Poultrie and Sub Almoner to the King, and Prebend of Westminster, whose education happened to be under the Charitie of Christ-church Hospitall: the verses were certainly off the Kings own writing and

<sup>1</sup> Richard Perrinchie<sup>1</sup>, 1623?-1673. Magdalene College, Cambridge. M.A. 1645. Royalist author of controversial works. The two books were almost certainly *The Royal Martyr*, or The Life and Death of King Charles I, and *The Sicilian Tyrant*, or *The Life of Agathocles*, with some Reflections on our late Usurpers, both printed in 1676.

were mislaid by M<sup>r</sup> Whitaker,<sup>1</sup> an antient Gentleman dwelling next S<sup>t</sup> Paul's Scool, who had accompanied his Majestie as his secretarie in Carisbrooke Castle by permission of the Regisides and writ divers off his meditations from his own Mouth (as I am Credibilie informed by old R : Royston<sup>2</sup>) he being worth about a thousand Pounds a year And having contracted this boldness with you I hope it may not be improper or offencive to give you a brief account off the acceptance your Labours generallie find in this Citie (from an impartial hand) 1<sup>st</sup> from those off your own Function to my knowledge divers off your Eminent Clergie do highlie esteem them one to home<sup>3</sup> I had lent some sheets of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of your Companion to the Temple quoted a passage in his Sermon on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January Concerning praying for A prince &c and has recomendend divers off quallitie to buy them and is to have the 3 vollumn's chained in his Parish Church they having been trained up for many years great Calvenists another a person of noble birth and an Archdeacon has desired me to get the 3 vollumns so bound assuring me he will promote the use off them in his Church, and divers who have hade all of them are become constant dayly prayer men and women at S<sup>t</sup> Christophers,<sup>4</sup> which fills morning and evening, verie much off late and St Martins<sup>5</sup> . . . and other Churches are getting up for twice a day prayers, which I doe hope proceeds from a zeal . . . thereby. Doctor Sancroft the Dean of St Pauls (as I am inform'd) buying a dozen at A Time to bestow (tis believed most) on the ministers he prefers in this Citie and it is desired by divers that you may make the nation so happie as to go thro with your Re . . . which if you do think fit to undertake I pray God prosper and enable you to go thro with to the advancement of his glory the good of his Church and nation and the silencing the black mouth of Calumney and all

<sup>1</sup> Charles Whitaker. Clerk and Writer at the Treaty of Newport. The statement that he took down the King's meditations from his own lips, if true, throws some light on the origin of the *Eikon Basilike*, and there is no particular reason why it should not be true. He acted as the King's secretary during his sojourn in the Isle of Wight.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Royston. Publisher and in Charles II's reign Bookseller to the King. His address is given, in the latter part of the reign, as St. Bartholomew's Hospital: and later, the Angel in St. Paul's Churchyard.

<sup>3</sup> whom.

<sup>4</sup> St. Christopher-le-Stocks, a thirteenth-century church removed in later days when the Bank of England was erected.

<sup>5</sup> There were eight churches in London dedicated to St. Martin.

prophaneness the Flourishing weeds of this Age and I shall be joyfull if in anything I may be capable to serve you if you please to Command.

I parted with M<sup>r</sup> Conyers this evening being gone 7 or 8 miles off to his wife to devour fresh Air, and return with his bellifull for a week on Monday morning, he prayd me to present his hearty servis to you and your Ladie, so doth my whole selfe Yours WR

For

M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Comber  
 Rector of Stone-grave  
 near York  
 to be left with A booke  
 At M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Wains  
 near the Minster  
 in  
 Yorke  
 Carridge paid.

23. T.C. TO A PERSON WHO SLANDERED HIM<sup>1</sup>

? 1676

"Time was when I rid divers miles for you, and procured you the convenience of travel, which yet you never own'd as a favour: Since that, I have vindicated your cause to your sister's face, and highly disoblig'd her by discoursing so earnestly for you, I have also labour'd to reconcile my Lord Frescheville to you and your concernes by many arguments, but he always told me, you were a person of so intolerable a temper that Madam D. could scarce do lesse than shee did in opposition to you, and sir, you have now partly given a testimony of the truth of this character; however, *I have always taken your part and never denied you any favour in my power*, though you are a gentleman I was never oblig'd to, nor shall I ever desire any requitall from you, but the same common respects that strangers pay me. Certainly I have done nothing to deserve your late unaccountable rudenesse, and therefore I can easily despise it, but only I find you are under great mistakes in reference to my condition, which I would not give myself the trouble to rectify, but

<sup>1</sup> *Memoirs*, pp. 95-96.

that I would not have you so far expose yourselfe as to be the relater of such *notorious falsehoods*. . . . After all I must desire you to consider that by God's blessinge I have the favour of the greatest of the nobility, and the best and most eminent Churchmen in the Kingdom, and am wholly out of the reach of your evill-will, having reputation among those whose opinion is most to be valew'd, and that so universall that your scurrilous speeches will not at all hurt me, neither shall they grieve me. You may publish your own ingratitude and envy, but can detract nothing from my character, so long as God assists me to go on in those ways in which I have begun: so that it may be, you may think it your wisest way to desist for your own sake, if not, *I pray God forgive you*, and give me grace to confute your slanders by my conversation. This is thought fit to be declared to you, from him that hath been

Your friend,  
Tho. Comber.

## 24. LORD FRESCHVILLE TO T.C.

SIR,

London the 27th of April.

In answer to your dispairing letter I can assure you that this morning my Lord Treasurer told me his Majestye had promised him you should have the next Prebendary of Durham if there was not one already vacant. My Lord Treasurer undertakes further that he will acquaint the Bishoppes of Durham and London with his majestyes gracious promise, to the end that this may not be forgotten. I desire to present my deare respects to my neece Thornton and my young neeces with my blessing to my pretty Godson<sup>1</sup> and Good Robin<sup>2</sup> must have part of my prayers. I know this advertiſement will be a full satisfaction to you all, so I will add no more but that I am

Sir yours most faithfully  
J. Frescheville.

Your Uncle W. Wandesford knows this and I will discourse with him about the bond. He hath sollicited very faithfully for you.

<sup>1</sup> This letter must be dated 1676, for the "pretty godson," John Comber, born in 1675 died April 22nd 1677. It is just possible of course that Freschville writing on 27th April 1677 wrote not knowing that John was dead, but it was in 1676 that the king promised Comber a prebend at Durham, so that year seems to be the correct one.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Thornton.

## 25. LORD FAUCONBERG TO T.C.

Feb 3. 76

MR COMBER.

I received yours by the last post which mention'd a former letter, that I assure you never came to my hands. I have consulted my Lords Treasurer and Freschville in relation to your concernes, and by commission from the former have acquainted Sir Hugh Cholmeley this night, that his consideration of you upon this occasion will be an obligation to him, noe lesse than to my selfe, and therefore I now conceive there remaines nothing more than for you to goe over to Whitby and ..... Sir Hugh Cholmeley in it before it be too late. I suppose you will receive with this a Letter more at Large from my Lord Frescheville and therefore I need give you noe further trouble then the reading this assurance that I am

Your most affectionate  
And Faithful servant  
Fauconberg.

the 3  
March<sup>1</sup> 1676.

26. T.C. TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK<sup>2</sup>

May it please your Grace.

I am obliged to make the most grateful acknowledgements for the honour and favour your Grace hath done me, in so freely electinge me into your College of Prebendaryes in your Cathedrall Church; and your Grace's kindness is the more valuable and engag- ing, in it you were pleased at soe greate a distance to have me in your thoughtes, who was as far from the purposes of asking such a dignite, as from the apprehensions of any merits in myselfe to deserve it.

*'Εκ τῶν ἀέλπτων ή χάρις μειξῶν βροτῶις  
φανεῖσα μᾶλλον ή τῶν προσδοκωμένων*

EURIP<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Notice the difference of date from that at the beginning.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs*, p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> A fragment, quoted by Stobaeus from the lost *Oedipus*. Dundorf, *Poetae Scenici Graeci*, 2nd ed. 1851, p. 685, gives the last two words as *τὸ προσδοκώμενον*. I am indebted for this reference to Prof. Hamilton Thompson.

And I can affirme the most pleasinge circumstance in this Donation is, that it is so faire an evidence of your Grace's good opinion of me, and kindness for me, whiche I esteeme above all *that* which the world calls advantage; and I hope by my sincere endeavours to serve God and his Churche, to demonstrate that I design to employe all your Grace's and others of my Noble friends favours *onely to enable me to doe more good*; and truly the favourable influence of your Grace's kindnesse herein will add a new vigour to my studyes, which are now intent upon the last part of the Offices in our excellent Liturgy, which I persuade myselfe, would be more admired if it were *better understood*. The pleasinge trouble of this study dothe soe wholly challenge me at present, that I hope your Grace will dispense with my personall attendance at London for a Confirmation of this Honor you have conferred on me, and if possible I must beg leave to receive this Confirmation when your Grace shall returne home, since neither the charge nor time of a London Journey are suteable to my present Circumstances. In the mean time I shall frequently remember your Grace in my prayers and learne from Seneca to make pleasinge reflexions upon this evidence of your Grace's Respect. *At illa quanto gratiora sunt, quantoque in partem interiorem animi nunquam exitura descendunt, cum delectant cogitantem magis à quo, quam quid acceperis.* l. i Senec de Benefic, I, i. c. 15. Upon your Grace's returne I shall immediately attend you at Bishopthorpe, with more particular expressions of my gratitudo. God Almighty grant that this may prove a happy Session, which will be an answer to the desires and endeavours of your Grace, as well as to the prayer of

My Lord  
Your Grace's most dutifull son  
and most obliged servant  
Thomas Comber

25<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
167<sup>6</sup> /.

## 27. T.C. TO SIR HUGH CHOLMLEY

A Copy of my Letter to Sir Hugh Cholmeley Mar: 8: 1676.

HONOURED SIR

I was informed about 10 Days ago that the Incumbent of Th[ornton] : was so ill as to be in gr. danger of Death which made me reflect upon those courteous encouragements you were pleased to give to my hopes of your favour in that affair. Presuming therefore that in this juncture of grand affairs you were constantly at London I did intimate to those 2 noble Lords who 1<sup>st</sup> procured me the honour of being known to you that they might by discourse with your Honour renew my suit, and it was no little surprise to me to receive the enclosed with intimations that you were resident at Whitby which if I had understood before I should in the 1<sup>st</sup> place have made my personall addresses to your selfe being then in better Condition for a journey then I am at this instant for besides the unseasonableness of the weather I am under some indisposition of cold, which unfortunately renders me incapable of presenting my good Lords letter with my own hands, for which I must beg your Pardon not doubting (since my Cold begins to abate) within a few days to make amends for this Omission, by waiting on you at Whitby, either the beginning or end of the next week, and I hope I may take this liberty the rather because upon second enquiries there is not so much appearance of a sudden Change, though little hopes of the old G :<sup>1</sup> surviving this lingring infirmity, so that I could wish to choose such a season to render my Request in as might give you the least trouble. In the mean time I know you will not want any sollicitations but your Obliging expression to me and my Honourable Advocates encouraging me to hope for the Continuance and confirmation of your noble intentions towards me therein whereby you will highly gratify those excellent Persons whose affections to me have invited them to intercede for me and also lay eternall engagements on me to Pray for the Prosperity of you and yours and to continue

Honoured Sir

Your most gratefull and  
most obliged Servant  
Tho: Comber

<sup>1</sup> ? Gentleman. The reference is to Christopher Bradley, Vicar of Thornton.

## 28. LORD FRESCHVILLE TO T.C.

March 3rd. [1676-7].

SIR,

My Lord Falconbridge is as ready and willing to oblige you as ever, and besides his letters to Sir Hugh Cholmlye by this Post it is so ordered that my Lord Treasurer hath desired him to present it likewise as his particular siut that you may have the Liveinge. I am assured my Lord Falconbridge will presse it effectually and I have here enclosed a letter to Sir Hugh which my Lord Falconbridge thought was best to be delivered to him with your owne hands therefore I desire you to hasten to Whitby<sup>1</sup>. The Parliament affairs go on with great successe hitherto and on fryday last the House of Commons have voted five [ ?hundred] thousand pounds<sup>2</sup> to be paid in 17 months by a land tax. I hope in God my dear niece continues in good health and all hers: which none wishes more heartily then

Your ever affectionate and faithfull freind

J. Fresheville.

## 29. SIR HUGH CHOLMLEY TO T.C.

Whitby the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1676-77

SIR

Though I wanted not solicitation for Thornton I have bin just in my promises to yourself in keeping free from all engagements to others, so that after M<sup>r</sup> Bradley his death you might renew your pretences with more advantage then others, for tho' I was not willing to declare my self farther, yet I always fix'd my thoughts upon your self, in whom meets those circumstanc's that a man should desire, who seeks the good of the place and Church it self,

<sup>1</sup> Whitby.

<sup>2</sup> On February 19th 1676-7 the House of Commons proposed to raise the sum of £600,000 for the provision of ships for the navy. On Friday March 2nd it was agreed that the whole sum should be raised by a Land Tax spread over seventeen months. (Anchitell Grey, *Debates of the House of Commons 1667-94*. Marvells Poems and Letters Oxford, 1927, p. 175.)

and I trust no private interest shall guide me other ways, who think my self as happy that I have the choice of so worthy a Neighbour, as you can be in receiving this from my hand, and on which you may certainly depend. Besides my noble Lords Faulconbridge and Fresheville, who gave me first the knowledge of you, I did the last week receive a message from my Lord Treasurer that the giving of this Living would be acceptable to his Lordship, and it is unto this you owe my declaring the matter, which I had resolv'd in my own thoughts, should have continu'd unascertain'd whilst the present incumbent was living, out of respect to him, since few are without their own designes and love not to hear of a Successor, so I wish my present declarations may be kept with some privacy. And since Thornton is a living of some consideration, and that there are in the parish many gentlemen of worth, if you hold with this any other living, I should be glad however to be assured that you intend Thornton for the chief place of your residence, because I know this is from the parish expected at my hands, and is in itself a place of so great health and other advantag's I know not where you can better your choice. The ways are very bad to Whitby and I am going for London, and shall spare you the trouble of so bad a journey and hope it in a better season when I may enjoy your Company with more satisfaction, if your occasions call you to York I shall be there on Munday at night, and tuesday the first of the Assize, when I shall be glad to see you, and may be heard of at the George in Coney street, I shall write to Lord Freschville by post I am

Sir

your humble servant  
H Cholmely.

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